

MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPORTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2016 @ 11:30 am
NSC Round Table Café
(DRAFT)

CALL TO ORDER

Alex Rowell, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:35 am.

ROLL CALL

Present: Judy Frisch, Alberder Gillespie, Joan Hallock, Lori Higgins, Sen. Alice Johnson, Julie Lunning, Rick Nelson, Al Nuness, Alex Rowell, Chair; John Wendt, Mike Hahm (telephone).
Absent: Rep. Joe Atkins, Joel Carlson, Bob Milbert, Rep. Linda Runbeck, Rep. Tim Sanders, Sen. David Senjem, David Stead, Sen. David Tomassoni.
Staff: Kris Bjerkness, Barclay Kruse, Steve Olson, Neil Ladd, Todd Johnson, Lynda Lynch.
Guests: Jason Lardy and Cap O'Rourke (Minnesota Cycling Center)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion Made (Wendt), Seconded (Nuness) to approve the proposed meeting agenda as written and distributed to members; motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Made (Frisch), Seconded (Lunning) to approve the November 18, 2015 MASC meeting minutes as written and distributed to members; motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Alex Rowell announced that Julie Lunning, Rick Nelson and Alex had been re-appointed to three year terms expiring January 2019. Alex also noted that he receives a number of various newsletters and communications regarding amateur sports and has requested assistance from staff in forwarding this information to board members for their general information. Alex updated on the capital bonding projects recommended by the Governor and will be further addressed during the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Barclay Kruse, presented on Todd's behalf while attending a Senate committee hearing, the MASC 3.0 report noting this initiative is primarily a strategic move to upgrade the agency's statewide visibility. Some of the highlights of the report included: a brief review of the agency's history which included the idealistic early years, the building era, the "retrenching" period when budget and staff complement was reduced significantly and the rebuilding/reinvention period which resulted in resurrecting the Mighty Ducks grant program and having a presence in statewide building projects. The intent of the initiative will be to reinvent the MASC in the spirit of the original statutes through research and development. Barclay noted that no one has ever

counted the total number of amateur sport participants and the correlating economic impact. This could be a staggering number and will need to partner with various outside sport groups and academic institutions; as well as developing a master list and setting criteria and parameters. It was recommended that the MASC form a committee for the purpose of developing a master list and setting the research criteria and parameters. Chairman Rowell asked for MASC board member volunteers, which included: John Wendt, Chair; Alberder Gillespie, Joan Hallock, Lori Higgins, Senator Alice Johnson, Rick Nelson, Julie Lunning, Alex Rowell. It was noted that this will be a multi-year project with the sports landscape constantly changing and will afford the opportunity to reconnect with the sport community at a statewide level.

ACTION ITEMS

A. NSCF Board Appointment – Alex reviewed the proposed resolution approving Marcus LeBeouf as a new NSCF board member. Alex provided brief education and professional background for Marcus. **Motion Made (Wendt), Seconded (Gillespie) to approve the resolution as written and distributed to members; motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Office Relocation to Gradient Financial Center - Todd updated the Commission on the reasons for pursuing the relocation of MASC/NSCF offices to the Gradient Financial Center noting that the current location of various offices made it challenging for visitors/business associates to locate offices as well as the desire of having the synergy with the various departments working together which the current office locations does not provide. Alex noted that he met with staff and did not want the move to have potentially negative financial implications. Staff confirmed that costs associated with the relocation would be offset with the potential rental options which will make it financially viable. Todd reviewed the potential list of rental clients, including MLS Training Center, Minnesota State Patrol, Gentry Academy and MN United.

B. MASC Legislative Initiatives – Neil Ladd reviewed the current agency’s capital bonding project summary report which identified the 2016 projects and the two projects which have received Governor’s recommendation for funding: \$5.082 for the NSC field development and maintenance facility; \$500k for NSC asset preservation. The agency is obligated to follow the Governor’s recommendations. Todd noted that he is optimistic that the SLP School will be built as staff continues to work with the attorney and key personnel regarding the potential building sites; residents will vote on a \$54 million referendum on April 26 and a site should be confirmed after that time. Todd reported that there is potential for the agency to receive additional legislative funding for another round of Mighty Duck grants. Kris Bjerkness reported on two potential projects that may seek pass through funding with the agency serving as the fiscal agent for the disbursement of any funds received. The projects include planning funds for the proposed enclosed Minnesota Cycling Center project. Cap O’Rourke, lobbyist for the project, provided a project update noting that they are still evaluating potential site locations in Minneapolis. In addition, Ramsey County, along with a coalition of six different communities/ski groups, are working together on seeking a funding request to refurbish ski jumps, purchase snowmaking equipment, artificial surfaces, etc.

C. Request for Proposal for Super Rink School – Kris Bjerkness reported that in 2013 a RFP was issued for a school to be built/located at the Super Rink (Northern Educate). The organization had various financial and organizational issues and was eventually replaced by Gentry Academy. This program is a positive for the facility in that it buys non-traditional ice hours during the school day. Due to the potential growth of the program, a RFP for construction of a school in 2018, is being considered. This would involve issuing an RFP to locate a sports themed school on NSC property; the RFP would be issued to interested parties including public, private and charter schools that may have an interest in the potential onsite school at the Super Rink.

NATIONAL SPORTS CENTER REPORT

Kris Bjerkness reviewed the financials for the period ending December 31, 2015 noting that this was the best year ever in the history of the NSC with a projected YTD net income of \$804,000. The strong financials is a result of a seven percent increase in participant registrations over the previous year.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm. The next meeting of the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission is scheduled for May 18 at 11:30 am.

Recorded by,

Lynda Lynch