

MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPORTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2016 @ 11:30 am
Gradient Financial Center/Grand Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Alex Rowell, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:45 am.

ROLL CALL

Present: Judy Frisch, Alberder Gillespie, Michael Hahm, Joan Hallock, Lori Higgins, Bob Milbert, Rick Nelson, Al Nuness, Alex Rowell, John Wendt.

Absent: Rep. Joe Atkins, Joel Carlson, Sen. Alice Johnson, Julie Lunning, Rep. Linda Runbeck, Rep. Tim Sanders, Sen. David Senjem, David Stead, Sen. David Tomassoni.

Staff: Todd Johnson, Neil Ladd, Steve Olson, Kris Bjerkness, Barclay Kruse, Jill Griffiths, Lynda Lynch.

Guest: John Daniels, NSCF Board Chair.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Made (Gillespie), Seconded (Nuness) to approve the February 17, 2016 MASC meeting minutes as written and distributed to members; motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Alex Rowell noted that improving communication with board members continues to be a priority with the intent of providing monthly updates to members that will also serve as a resource for questions and comments at future board meetings. Alex noted that Todd's recent newsletter was very helpful and informative.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Todd Johnson noted that his report would be short based on the fact the majority of his topics would be covered during the meeting. Todd shared a baseball story about his son noting the similarity of telling him that he had done everything he could to make the final spot on the varsity high school team and it was in the coach's hands; the same analogy applies to the efforts and commitment of staff with legislative initiatives noting they have done everything they could and still hopeful that there will be positive results.

ACTION ITEMS

A. NSCF Board Appointment – Kris Bjerkness reviewed the proposed resolution and updated members on the background of the new NSCF board member, noting that it a board

policy to review/approve recommended NSCF board members. Kris noted that Erin's professional background in finance/accounting will help fill a void with possible future vacancies with similar background. **Motion Made (Wendt), Seconded (Frisch) to approve the proposed resolution as written and distributed to members; motion carried unanimously (copy attached).**

B. Review/Approval of 2016-18 MASC-NSCF Master Agreement – Kris provided background on the purpose of the master agreement noting that it identifies the role and responsibilities of the NSCF as the operating entity of the NSC (owned by the MASC). Kris noted that the agreement has been provided in its entirety to members previously and the only change that is being made is the term date with no other changes at this time. **Motion Made (Milbert), Seconded (Hallock) to approve the proposed resolution as written and distributed to members; motion carried unanimously (copy attached).**

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. MASC Legislative Update – 1) MASC Bonding Request - Todd Johnson reviewed the campus map highlighting the area that would be impacted with the potential \$5.082 million bonding request, which includes completing the tournament fields expansion project. As of this date, no funding has been recommended in the House bill and it is not known at this time if there will be a bonding bill this session; awaiting for leadership to decide. 2) SLP School District Proposed School Development – Todd noted that the referendum passed in April and the school district is currently evaluating three potential sites for the future development of a school, with the NSC being one of the sites (parking lot/adjacent to the velodrome). This is an ideal building location due to existing land conditions which would require minimal soil correction. Neil provided background on determining the site location noting that staff did not want to eliminate the use of current/future fields as well as the need of adhering to the SLP school boundaries. It was also noted that the land would be leased to the school district and not sold as previously discussed; MMB has requested that language be added in the bonding bill regarding this change due to the fact the MASC would be altering the use of the state-owned land. 3) Mighty Ducks Grant Program – Todd referenced a recent article in the "Let's Play Hockey" magazine featuring Senator Metzen as the legislative champion of Mighty Ducks who has continued to recommend future funding of the grant program. Todd noted that there are several funding bills at the present time and hopeful the program will receive funding this session.

Other Legislative Initiatives – The three projects, including funding for 105th Avenue, Velodrome Planning and Snow Angels have all had bills introduced for potential funding; however, funding for 105th Avenue is the only project that may receive the \$3.5 million funding request for the repair and redesign of the road.

B. Airport Park, Blaine Soccer Club, Nicklaus Group – Todd brief members on the overall progress that has been made with the relationship with the City of Blaine noting that the assessment on Davenport is lingering and has not been paid; however, staff is still working on negotiating other potential options. Todd noted that staff has met with the City of Blaine and Blaine Soccer Club regarding the 39 acres that the City of Blaine leases from MAC. These discussions led to a new eight month lease agreement with MAC that provides for the City to continue to manage 10 acres of softball fields with the remaining acres/fields being managed by the NSC. This will allow the NSC to manage and utilize these fields for its various

tournaments/events while allowing staff to continue to negotiate for the potential of a longer term lease. Todd also noted that discussions continue with the potential of building a hotel on the corner of 105th Avenue and Radisson Road. Jack Nicklaus may be at the Opening Ceremonies for Schwan's USA CUP.

C. MN United Update – Barclay Kruse reported that MN United is currently the top team in their respective league and will begin its MLS season in 2018 at its new stadium in St. Paul. Barclay has limited number of tickets available for home games and board members interested in obtaining tickets should contact Barclay directly. Barclay noted there continues to be a concerted effort to maintain the NSC as the long term training site which would require incremental improvements, including locker room upgrades, onsite office space and designated training fields with the academy team playing in the stadium. The partnership would provide for player/coaches appearances and opportunities at NSC events. Barclay noted that Manny Lagos is a great supporter of the NSC. The staff has maintained a very positive working relationship with MN United personnel.

D. MASC 3.0 Update – Barclay updated on the MASC 3.0 Committee and provided a brief historical perspective. The overall intent of the project will be to demonstrate the economic impact of amateur sports statewide. Staff will identify how the numbers will be acquired and evaluated as well as determining how these numbers impact/benefit the MASC. Staff will also solicit the support of the MN Office of Tourism.

NATIONAL SPORTS CENTER REPORT

Todd introduced Jill Griffiths, Chief Development Officer, who provided a brief summary on development/sponsorship activities. Jill also introduced George Ellis, intern who is conducting facility assessments for basketball, volleyball and other related sports.

Kris Bjerckness provided a brief summary on the NSCF financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2016 noting that there are no significant changes from the prior meeting's report.

OTHER

It was suggested that staff discuss and make a recommendation of reconfiguring the Tom Duffy Gold Room and/or renaming the office space with that name. Staff will evaluate and report at next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm. The next MASC meeting is scheduled for August 17 at 11:30 am.

Recorded by,

Lynda Lynch