

MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPORTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2016 @ 11:30 am

NSC Welcome Center

Alex Rowell, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:38 pm.

Roll Call: Rep. Joe Atkins, Joel Carlson, Alberder Gillespie, Michael Hahm, Joan Hallock, Lori Higgins, Sen. Alice Johnson, Julie Lunning, Al Nuness, Alex Rowell, Rep. Linda Runbeck, Sen. David Senjem, Sen. David Tomassoni, John Wendt. Absent: Judy Frisch, Bob Milbert, Rick Nelson, Rep. Tim Sanders, David Stead. Staff: Todd Johnson, Barclay Kruse, Neil Ladd, Kris Bjerckness, Steve Olson, Pete Carlson, Peter Barsness, Mark Erickson, Lynda Lynch.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion Made (Hahm), Seconded (Wendt) to approve the proposed MASC Meeting Agenda as written and distributed to members. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Made (Johnson), Seconded (Nuness) to approve the May 18, 2016 MASC Meeting Minutes as written and distributed to members. Motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Alex Rowell opened the meeting by acknowledging MASC/NSCF Staff for their continued hard work and success with all of the summer activities and programs, including Schwan's USA CUP, which continues to be a well-organized cornerstone tournament year after year. Alex also mentioned about the unfortunate passing of Judy Frisch's son-in-law who had sustained a debilitating brain injury five years ago.

Alex informed members about the recent passing of Senator Metzen, who was a former MASC member, and a proud torch bearer for the Mighty Ducks legislation. Todd shared the thank you that was received from Senator Metzen's family, which appreciated the "hockey stick" flower arrangement that was sent on behalf of the MASC/NSCF boards and staff.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Todd Johnson commented on the following topics noting that staff is catching its breath after the completion of the major summer events and tournaments: 1) Staff is in the process of reviewing and preparing the agency's internal control assessment and the 2018-19 biennial budget; 2) MN United will make a formal announcement on Friday regarding their new stadium plans and the intent to continue with the United name for the 2017 MLS season and will play its games at the TCF Bank Stadium until completion of the new stadium (2018). The training component will remain at the NSC which involves a long term lease agreement and the potential for sponsorship opportunities; 3) Staff has entered into contracts with two outside services to assist in the development of a campus master plan that will include the review of signage, architecture, and ancillary services; 4) Staff continues to work on the office relocation

project as well as serving the new tenants which include MN United, Blaine Soccer Club and the MLS National Sales Center.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Spring Lake Park School District Proposed K-4 School Lease – Neil Ladd provided background on the school proposal and its current standing noting that the consensus is that the NSC remains a good fit for proposed school development based on location and amenities. The required statutory language change is in the proposed Bonding Bill but will require final approval if a Special Session is called. Following discussion, **Motion Made (Johnson), Seconded (Hallock) to approve the proposed SLP School District School Development Resolution (copy attached); Motion carried unanimously.**

B. RFP for Food & Beverage Services at the NSC – Todd provided background on staff's recommendation to pursue doing a RFP for food and beverage services at the National Sports Center noting that the intent would be to offer the opportunity to better serve its customers in a cost effective manner. Following discussion, **Motion Made (Runbeck), Seconded (Hallock) to approve the proposed resolution (copy attached); Motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. MASC Legislative Update: 1) Todd provided an update on the 2016 bonding initiatives noting that the original \$5.8 million request for the NSC field development was not included in the current Bonding Bill; 2) the language regarding the law change for the SLP school project was discussed earlier in meeting; 3) Todd recognized the efforts of Senators Metzen, Tomassoni and Saxhaug with the Mighty Ducks legislation and securing \$10 million to assist in funding R-22 projects and improving indoor air quality at ice arenas. A statewide news release was published announcing the grant program as well as publicizing in the State Register. Staff is in the process of contacting every arena and conducting an internal survey regarding the status of current and future air quality/R-22 related issues.

B. Southwest Regional Amateur Sports Center Grand Opening – Staff attending the pre-grand opening of the Southwest Regional Sports Center in July and was extremely impressed with the facility as well as the infrastructure to support the project. The official grand opening will take place on September 9 and will include community and legislative dignitaries.

C. Metropolitan Airports Commission Lease, Golf Course and Fields – Todd noted that an agreement has been reached for a short term lease for 49 acres of the MAC property as the City and MAC could not come to agreement on the softball fields which remain under the direction of the City of Blaine. Staff is hopeful that by the next meeting a new agreement should be negotiated for the 500 acres (49 acres plus golf course).

NATIONAL SPORTS CENTER REPORT

Kris Bjerckness reviewed the financials for the period ending June 30, 2016. Kris noted that revenues have increased, however, food and beverage/host services have not been reconciled but are consistent with last year's numbers. Repairs/maintenance are 115k over budget, however, this is due in large part to the age of the facility and the number of repairs that are needed and the financial ability to proceed with the initiatives. Kris noted that staff is in the

process of closing July and feel good about the outlook and anticipate meeting or exceeding current budget numbers. It was also noted that long term debt continues to decline and have paid off a high interest loan in July. The NSC has been in operation for 26.5 years with net unrestricted assets of \$3.8 million. The current financial projection is tracking according to plan.

Neil updated on the golf course noting that the majority of Minnesota golf courses are experiencing approximately 2.0% increase in rounds played; however, Victory Links is trending at 4 to 5 percent increase in rounds which is ahead of last year's numbers. Staff maintain it is the "best kept secret" in the golf community but its word of mouth that is attributed to its growth.

Pete Carlson updated on Ice Sports Programming noting that he delivered a check to the Masonic Cancer Center in the amount of \$37,000 from Stick It To Cancer tournament held in April. The ISI Worlds Figure Skating Championships were recently held at the Super Rink which attracted skaters from 18 states/four countries and was the biggest event on six sheets of ice. The NSC's Skating School was well represented and won the World Championship. Jane Schaber and staff were commended on a job well done.

Darin Thompson reviewed Field Sports which included a new event recently held at the NSC Stadium, Major League Lacrosse, and had over 4,000 in attendance. This was a good event with hopes of hosting similar lacrosse events in the future.

Neil Ladd reported on USA CUP in Jen Een's absence reviewing the handout which provided a breakdown of the participation numbers for this year's USA CUP: 1178 total teams representing 19 countries and 20 different states. Barclay Kruse and staff compiled data summarizing social media impressions for the event. There was a record total of over 7.0 million media impressions for the event. Barclay noted that while there was an increase in social media activity and viewership, there was a decrease in the amount of media coverage compared to previous years. Barclay reviewed the economic impact results for the tournament which reflected \$26.0 million for outstate visitor ship and does not include local benefits, using the same tool administered by MN Department of Tourism.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2016 at 11:30 am.

Recorded by,

Lynda Lynch