



ATHLETIC COMMISSION
500 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243
615-741-1831

**Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2024
Library and Archives Building
Middle Tn Conference Room 1B**

The Tennessee Athletic Commission met on March 11, 2024, at the Library and Archives Building Middle TN Conference Room. The following business was transacted:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Christy Halbert, Ben Grove, Dan McGrew, Matthew Reddish, and Patrick Wrenn

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Roxana Gumucio, Jesse Gentry, and Katie Long

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Director Gumucio called the meeting to order at 2:18 p.m. and took roll, establishing that a quorum was present.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Director Gumucio read the notice of meeting into the record as follows: "Notice of the March 11, 2024, meeting of the Athletic Commission including date, time and location has been noticed on the website since June 13, 2023; additionally, this month's agenda has been posted to the website since March 6, 2024."

AGENDA

Christy Halbert motioned to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Dan McGrew. The motion passed unanimously.

DECEMBER MINUTES

Ben Grove motioned to adopt the June minutes as written, which was seconded by Matt Reddish. The motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Budget Report

Director Gumucio briefed the Commission on the status of the budget. Financial information as of January 2024 reflect a surplus of \$155,136 added this fiscal year. This brings the reserve balance to 89,659.

LEGAL

Legal Report (presented by Jesse Gentry)

1. 2023058101

First Licensed: 10/31/2023

Expiration: 10/30/2025

Type: Combatant

History: None.

Summary: Respondent was contracted to participate in a boxing contest on November 7, 2023. The Respondent did not show up to the contest and the Complainant, on behalf of the promoter, filed this complaint. The Complainant stated the promoter has incurred upwards of \$1,000 in expenses related to the Respondent's failure to fight. The Complainant specifically stated the Respondent was advanced \$300 in travel expenses and an additional \$135 to cover gas after the Respondent missed his flight. The Complainant did not outline the rest of the expenses incurred related to this matter, however, the Respondent also did not respond to the allegations of the complaint.

Recommendation: Authorize formal charges with an offer to settle this matter by a Consent Order with a \$250 civil penalty for a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-115-209(a)(4)(fails to give best efforts or compete).

Commission Decision: Concur.

Matt Reddish motioned to accept legal counsels' recommendation, which was seconded by Christy Halbert. The motion passed unanimously.

2. 2023063101

First Licensed: 03/06/2023

Expiration: 03/05/2025

Type: Promoter

History: None.

Summary: This was an internally generated complaint following the request by the Commission to open a complaint to investigate a situation in which a boxer without any experience made a debut against a boxer who was over 30-years younger and had professional experience.

The Respondent stated this boxer first contacted him to request to fight in the promoter's event. The boxer stated he had been training for two years to prepare for the fight, including a year and a half with a professional trainer at a gym in Tennessee. The Respondent further stated the boxer had been sparring with professional boxers leading up to this fight.

The Respondent stated this bout was setup with proper precautions. The opponent had experience but did not have a professional history showing where he had knockout or technical knockout wins. Additionally, the bout was approved with heavier gloves as a precaution for the boxers and the Respondent stated he discussed all precautions with the Commission's representatives. The Respondent stated since the boxer passed all requirements for the Commission, he was approved to fight.

The Respondent's application and all required tests were approved as they did not indicate any deficiencies.

Recommendation: Close.

Commission Decision: Concur.

Christy Halbert motioned to accept legal counsels' recommendation, which was seconded by Dan McGrew. The motion passed unanimously.

3. 2024001621

First Licensed: 10/12/2020

Expiration: 09/21/2025

Type: Promoter

History: 2023 – One complaint closed with letter of warning for failure to submit receipts report and applicable tax within ten day of an event.

Summary: Respondent held a professional boxing contest on October 1, 2023. Following the contest, the Respondent failed to complete his gross receipts form and submit his due tax. The Commission's staff reached out to the Respondent on October 18, 2023, and due to the Respondent's failure to submit his form and tax, this complaint was opened. Legal counsel contacted the Respondent on January 25, 2024, as well to inquire as to the status of the form and due tax.

This is the second time this issue has occurred with this Respondent, however, last time the matter was closed with a warning as the Respondent paid the tax after a complaint was opened and before the complaint was reviewed by the Commission. Due to this being a recurring issue, it is recommended to authorize charges and a settlement offer, which would be a penalty in addition to the owed gross receipts tax.

Recommendation: Authorize formal charges with an offer to settle by Consent Order. Authorize a penalty for the Consent Order in the amount of \$500 for the failure to timely submit a gross receipts tax.

Commission Decision: Concur.

Christy Halbert motioned to accept legal counsels' recommendation, which was seconded by Matt Reddish. The motion passed unanimously.

4. 2024004151

First Licensed: 11/16/2022

Expiration: 11/15/2024

Type: Boxer

History: None.

Summary: This appeared to be an anonymous complaint since the names and contact information match the Respondent's information and he did not file a complaint against himself. It was alleged the Respondent had active warrants for domestic violence, which the Respondent denied. The court's website still show the warrant as active after it was issued in June 2019.

Based on the statutory grounds for the Commission to discipline its licensees not including specific grounds related to criminal convictions, it is recommended to close and flag this matter so that if the Respondent is convicted of domestic violence, the Commission can reconsider this matter to determine whether that conviction shows a lack of general character qualifying for a license.

Recommendation: Close and flag.

Commission Decision: Concur.

Dan McGrew motioned to accept legal counsels' recommendation, which was seconded by Ben Grove. The motion passed unanimously.

RE-PRESENTATION

5. 2022010421

First Licensed: 08/10/2021

Expiration: 08/09/2023

Type: Promoter

History: None.

Summary: This Respondent has failed to submit receipt reports to the commission.

Recommendation: Authorize formal hearing. Authorize settlement by consent order with a \$500 civil penalty reduced to \$200.00 if the receipt report is received within 30 days.

Commission Decision: Authorize formal hearing. Authorize settlement by consent order with a \$1,000 civil penalty reduced to \$200.00 if the receipt report is received within 30 days. Also, promoter will not be granted a future event permit until this matter is resolved.

New Information: The Respondent's license has expired and has not been renewed. It is recommended to close and flag this complaint with the direction to require the Respondent appear before the Commission prior to issuing a renewal of his license. Legal has reached out to the Respondent on multiple occasions to inquire as to the status of his tax and whether he would be renewing his license and the Respondent has failed to submit his required information and due tax.

New Recommendation: Close and flag.

New Commission Decision: Concur.

Matt Reddish motioned to accept legal counsels' recommendation, which was seconded by Dan McGrew. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Gumucio asked if anyone in the public, participating in person or remotely using Teams, had comments as they relate to the agenda. There were no comments provided.

Roberts Rule of Order

Christy Halbert motioned to agree and adhere to Robert's Rules of Order to conduct meetings. This was seconded by Dan McGrew. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

Matt Reddish motioned to re-elect Dan McGrew as Chair, which was seconded by Christy Halbert. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Patrick Wrenn announced his retirement from the Commission. He shared some of his experiences in the industry since 1977. Mr. Wrenn spoke about his wonderful family and appreciation for his time as an inspector and appointment to the commission. The commission members thanked him for the years of dedication and expressed their regard for all he is and his accomplishments.

Matt Reddish motioned to elect Christy Halbert as Vice Chair, which was seconded by Ben Grove. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Ben Grove asked for an update in the Bare Knuckle Rules. Mr. Gentry explained that the commission will likely have Rulemaking Hearing at the June 10th meeting.

Matt Reddish discussed the option for the commission to provide the medical insurance information to Mr. Evan Gubera. Ben Grove motioned to have legal provide the medical insurance information to Mr. Gubera and not go through the public records request process given the insurance requirement is there to protect combatants. Motion was seconded by Christy Halbert. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, a motion was made by Matt Reddish to adjourn, which was seconded by Dan McGrew. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.