

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

1000 Washington Street, Boston MA 02118

PUBLIC MINUTES

Date: February 26, 2018

Location: Rm. 1G DOI

Time: 11:00 AM

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Rod Walkey

Commissioner Charles Borstel

Commissioner Patrick Bradley

Commissioner Bryan Lambert

Natasha Belizaire, Executive Director of Licensing

Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Commissioner Paul Karger

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mark Porter, boxing gym owner

William Vigil, mixed martial arts matchmaker applicant

Meeting called to order by Chair Rod Walkey at 11:08 AM.

1. Roll call

Rod Walkey, Chair

Pat Bradley, Commissioner

Charles Borstel, Commissioner Division of Professional Licensure

Bryan Lambert, Commissioner

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Natasha Belizaire, Executive Director of Licensing

Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

2. Approval of minutes from January 16, 2018

A motion was made by Commissioner Borstel to approve the minutes from January 16, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

3. Approval of minutes from January 29, 2018

A motion was made by Commissioner Borstel to approve the minutes from January 29, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

4. Request from Mark Porter for Variance from 523 CMR 6.00 – 15.00 for an amateur boxing charity event (Fighting Chance Foundation)

Mark Porter asked the board to consider his request for variance from 523 CMR, sections 6.00 – 15.00. Mr. Porter was looking to hold an amateur boxing event that would fall outside the guidelines of USA Boxing and 523 CMR. Mr. Porter supplied the board with information on the charity he is raising funds for through this event; *Fighting Chance Foundation*. After discussion and with guidance from board counsel, the board agreed to the granting of a special permit pending new regulation. A policy with guidelines for special permitting for these types of events will be created.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bradley to grant a special permit to conduct a charity boxing event on April 7, 2018, held by Mark Porter, seconded by Commissioner Borstel. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

A second motion was made by Commissioner Borstel to grant the variance from 523 CMR, sections 6.00 – 15.00 for the charity boxing event pending Mr. Porter with assistance from MSAC staff put in writing a complete outline of the event and reference each section in which the event will vary from; this outline will be presented to the board for their review and approval at the next meeting on March 23, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

5. Mixed Martial Arts Matchmaker License Application from William Vigil

Applicant William Vigil came before the board to apply for the mixed martial arts matchmaker's license. Mr. Vigil detailed his experience in the industry as a mixed martial arts promoter and as a matchmaker in the sport of grappling. Mr. Vigil currently has a licensed matchmaker working for his promotion but felt it was time to obtain his own license as he is actively involved in the bouts matched for his events.

A motion was made by Commissioner Borstel to accept and grant the license to Mr. Vigil, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

6. Update on Licensing of Seconds

The Director of Licensing, Natasha Belizaire updated the board on the staff's findings regarding licensing seconds under other jurisdictions. MSAC staff found that most commissions who answered the request on what their practices were found that most performed the licensing within a shorter time period than that of the MSAC program. The Director detailed the challenges that come with licensing this group of individuals but did express that a 3-day deadline is a consideration as compared to the current 7-day deadline for licensure.

The board asked the staff to continue researching what other commissions practice.

7. “Just cause” definition (523 CMR 10:11) – establishing guidelines and procedures for approval

Chief Legal Counsel, Kevin Scanlon stated that he is presently looking into defining “Just cause” for purposes related to 523 CMR and will report back to the board at the next meeting in March.

After board discussion regarding regulation changes, board counsel suggested that a “punch list” be created to outline potential regulation changes. It was also suggested that a listening session be added to an upcoming agenda for the stakeholders which would provide feedback on the current regulations and give thought to revising regulation. The board agreed with the suggestion. MSAC staff was asked to begin the process of booking a session in May 2018.

8. Upcoming event schedule

The upcoming event schedule was presented for the month of March, 2018 to the board.

9. Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting

N/A

Prior to adjourning, Chair Walkey welcomed the newly appointed Commissioner, Bryan Lambert and thanked Matt LeBretton for serving as Chair.

Commissioner Bradley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Borstel. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 PM

Meeting Exhibits:

Draft minutes, January 16, 2018

Draft minutes, January 29, 2018

Variance request and information packet (Fighting Chance Foundation)

Matchmaker application from William Vigil

Report from MSAC staff on Seconds Licensing

Upcoming event schedule for March 2018