**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**JUNE 20, 2015**

**OPELOUSAS, LA**

1. **ATTENDEES:**
ALVIN TOPHAM (A.T.)
BUDDY EMBANATO (B.E.)
JOHN GREEN, JR. (J.G.)
PATRICK MCGINITY (P.M.)
DR. THOMAS FERGUSON (T.F.)
HAROLD WILLIAMS (H.W.)
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

 ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) ACCT

1. **MINUTES:**

B.E. moves to accept minutes; H.W. seconds; passed, all ayes. B.E. moves to pay bills and payroll if money available; H.W. seconds; passed, all ayes.

Review of J.G.'s April minutes. T.F. moves to accept as written; B.E. seconds; passed, all ayes.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Russell Jones, MMA fighter

1. **LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

Russell Jones is a longtime fighter MMA, etc., 54 yrs old and wants to fight in LA; all know we have rules for fighters over the age of 40; says he passed all required medicals, EKG etc. No knockout history; in very good shape; he turns records over to Dr. Ferguson; B.E. reviews complete requirements with him; he needs more documents, i.e., MRI, complete history, letter from neurologists; his fighting record is reviewed; advised to bring any and all recorded documentation of past fights, etc.

2 promoter license renewals are no shows.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**:

On Midget Wrestling: A.T.: we had a situation (another) with Midgets; they were going through the process with J.G. for a fight at Racks under Carruth's license. A.T. told them they couldn't do a show in Houma unless they did it under someone else's license. They wanted to do a show at a motor cycle store. A.T. told them they could meet and greet but no fighting; they fought anyway. A.T. is done with them. There’s always some trouble with the midget shows. A.T. would like to return their cks and applications to them and wash our hands of them. J.G. says there are a couple of things we can do: 1) contact State Police about unsanctioned show and 2) refuse to give them licenses. J.G. moves not to award Skylar Ward a license; B.E. seconds; we have his application and cks for license and J.G. will write letter with explanation with the documents and undeposited checks. How do we report an “after the fact” unsanctioned show? A.T. says we need to give all the information to the AG's office and district attorney where the show was put on (Terrebonne Parish)...J.G. asks Russell to email him the video of unsanctioned show so he can forward it to the officials.

On Belle of BR safety concerns: B.E.: the other night in BR at the Belle, it's gotten worse about the atmosphere....entirely too crowded, dressing room not situated right; Russell says before long there will be a shooting or a stabbing there; last fight was out of control; deputies too far away to do any good; need armed police at dressing rooms which are too crowded with people that don't belong there. Need to talk to the promoter and make him aware of the fact that the security and policing at his events are insufficient; B.E. says he talked to him recently about the problem; casino has to do its part to calm situation down; we can shut it down, period, if we want to; B.E. asked them to move the dressing rooms over a year ago; promoter said they won't do that; ring owner's wife was accosted on her way to the dressing rooms; husband was upset; R.N. says there is definite gang activity going on. What to do about this problem? It's time to tell the promoter that before he has another event there, he needs to come before the commission to discuss what security measures he will put in. (Promoter is Matt McGovern)...J.G. suggests we get the layout plan from the casino for events; B.D. suggests getting a casino rep here, too. P.M. believes Gaming Board ought to be put on notice that casino is conducting unsafe events; J.G. doesn't think we need to start that big a fight right now; maybe later; J.G. will send him a letter asking him to come before the board to talk about the situation. A.T. reiterates the casino is responsible for the safety and security for the public in their buildings. B.D. moves we have both the promoter and the casino rep present to meet with commission before we approve any additional shows; T.F. seconds; passed, all ayes. A.T. says someone needs to contact Matt; he has show in August. A.T. will give him a heads up by phone and let him know to expect the letter; will send same letter to General Manager to Casino. Should Fire Marshall be contacted? J.G. will try and find out if there's a security division there and send them a copy also.

Bobby asks that we recognize a retired commission official, Fenton Crosby of Fenton Crosby Tugboat Co., at the fight tonight.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**:

We need to discuss the locker room incident in Charenton. Where do we stand? Chad Broussard comes in and gives his review of the incident. He says that Todd was totally out of control, cursing and accusing officials, etc., threw a huge ice chest over, punched a wall...accounting girls in the office next door were afraid of all the threats and fighting....he threatened Kevin with bodily harm. Chad personally texted Buddy later and asked that Todd Manual be suspended. J.G. was there and concurs with all Chad says...review by Todd given to commission at last meeting sounds totally different. J.G. believes we need to have a hearing on whether to suspend Mr. Manuel. B.E. moves that we subpoena Manuel and Monceaux, Chad Broussard and Kevin Babineaux to appear for a hearing before the commission on July 8, 2015; T.F. seconds; J.G. will recuse himself from voting at the hearing since he was a witness to the altercation.

A.T.: we had a UFC fighter who was upset with his own performance; Dr. examined him in the ring; fighter objected and fighter pushed the Dr. in the chest; Dr. took care of it himself but A.T. forwarded a note to his contact at the UFC about that behavior and they guaranteed A.T. that they would handle it internally.

On the Final Round presentation at last meeting on the boxing tournaments: they sent a revised tournament document; it was emailed to everybody; P.M. has reservations about the alteration/restructuring of the boxing rules for them to conduct these tournaments. J.G. believes we need to focus on the mechanics of the tournaments; needs further discussion such as who will be the referees, etc. So there are definite points to revise or discuss with them before we accept their proposals. J.G. will pass on the commission's initial discussion points.

J.G. was contacted by somebody from Shreveport about an amateur kickboxing show. Do we sanction those? ISKA is the sanctioning body for MMA here; A.T. refers them to ISKA; like usual...it was a professional kickboxing event.

J.G. is not sure whether this was handled correctly....we need to make sure we vote on shows that are not usual (like professional kickboxing) and not have a commissioner making unilateral decisions on the fly.

J.G. praised A.T.'s handling of the UFC show & how well he keeps a grip on what's happening.

1. **PAST SHOWS:**

No discussion.

1. **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

No discussion.

1. **NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:**

Will hold the next meeting July 8th at the capital in B.R. and schedule the hearing for the Charenton Incident on that day. Addie is authorized to contact court reporter for the hearing. B.E. moves to adjourn; H.W. seconds; passed, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.