**MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

**MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, April 17, 2024**

On Wednesday, April 17, 2024, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Acting Chair James “Binky” Jones at 3:02 p.m. Present were the following: Commissioner James “Binky Jones (Acting Chair); Commissioner David Norman, Commissioner Carl Wilson, Commissioner Brian Boles, John Dove, Commission for O&P, Sarah McDermott, Assistant Commissioner for O&P, Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel; Matthew McKinney, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Olga Escobar, Administrative Officer, and Jason Curtis, Administrative Assistant. Commissioner Dr. Kristi Hall was absent. This was a hybrid meeting with Commission members, Commission staff, and the public calling into Google Meets, as well as joining in person. Chairman Norman indicated that since he was at an airport and thought his phone connection would be spotty, he was requesting that another Commissioner serve as Acting Chair for the meeting. James “Binky” Jones agreed to serve as Acting Chair.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Minutes from the March 20, 2024 meeting were discussed. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Boles. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Commissioner of Business Occupations & Professions REPORT**

Commissioner of Occupations and Professions (“O&P”) John Dove addressed the Commission by stating that the Executive Director position for the Maryland State Athletic Commission (“MSAC”) was vacant. He stated that due to the vacancy of the position, all potential regulation changes would be tabled until the May 15, 2024 MSAC meeting. Mr. Dove also commented as to the excellent work performed by MSAC medical staff at the Shogun Fights, MMA show on March 30, 2024. Mr. Dove explained that a fighter had been rendered unconscious by a strike and the medical team was able to provide excellent care that allowed the fighter to be released from the hospital the next day.

**REVIEW OF COMMISSION SANCTIONED EVENTS**

Commissioner of O&P John Dove advised the Commission about the wrestling and MMA events in the previous month. Those events included the following:

Shogun Fights 27, March 30, Baltimore

AWA Wrestling, March 30, Waldorf

Micro Wrestling All-Stars, April 2, Baltimore (Canceled)

Micro Wrestling All-Stars, April 3, Perryville (Canceled)

ACW Wrestling, April 6, Catonsville

EWA Wrestling April 13, Bel Air

MCW Wrestling April 13, Frederick

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Acting Chair James “Binky” Jones led the Commission in a discussion of upcoming events, which included the following:

Pay Your Dues Wrestling, April 19, Glen Burnie

ACW Wrestling, April 19, Hagerstown

MCW Wrestling, April 20, Hollywood

MCW Wrestling, April 21, Joppa

Micro Wrestling Federation, April 26, Glen Burnie

AWA Wrestling, April 27, Waldorf

MCW Wrestling, April 27, Ridgley

EWA Wrestling, April 28, Dundalk

Micro Wrestling Federation, May 2, Baltimore

Micro Wrestling Federation, May 3, Perryville

CZW Wrestling, May 5, Harve de Grace

EWA Wrestling, May 11, Bel Air

A motion to approve the upcoming Pay Your Dues Wrestling event on April 19th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Norman. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming ACW Wrestling event on April 19th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Norman. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming MCW events on April 20th, April 21st and April 27th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Norman. The events were unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming Micro Wrestling Federation events on April 26th, May 2nd, and May 3rd was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Norman. The events were unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the AWA Wrestling event on April 27th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Norman. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming EWA Wrestling events on April 28th and May 11th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Norman. The events were unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming CZW Wrestling event on May 5th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Norman. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business discussion.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Christen Jeter addressed the Commission about her upcoming event scheduled for July. Mrs. Jeter stated she was worried about the round restrictions limiting her event to only 56 rounds of boxing. Ms. Jeter ended by advising the Commission about professional boxing events that took place the week prior that exceeded 56 rounds in other jurisdictions at venues that have smaller seating capacities than Maryland Live! Casino.

Marvin McDowell, a boxing trainer, offered his gym to MSAC staff to practice refereeing and judging in a controlled setting.

Alan Blyweiss, a boxing trainer, commented on continuing education for judges and referees at the amateur level for state officials.

James Hogan, a promoter, stated that he is happy that there will be open dialogue between the Commission and promoters going forward. Mr. Hogan stated that he would be willing to offer locker room training for inspectors.

Tony Jeter of Jeter Promotions stated to the Commission that, if given the opportunity, Jeter Promotions would like to promote more shows. He stated that he hopes that with better communication there will be more opportunities for fighters to get on their cards for events.

Bruce Branch, the Executive Director at Maryland Business Clergy Partnership, addressed the Commission about how Maryland has the opportunity to bring major title fights into the state. Mr. Branch advised the Commission that with the round restrictions that were in place, those title fights would be sanctioned in other jurisdictions.

Danny Kisner, a boxing trainer, stated to the Commission that fighters in Maryland do not have the chance to grow their skills fighting on cards that have 40 rounds. Mr. Kisner also advised the Commission against the suggested 72-hour cutoff rule for substitute fighters.

Ron Pisano, a matchmaker, stated to the Commission how 40 rounds of boxing will crush the sport in Maryland. Mr. Pisano stated that having this round restriction has hindered the fighter’s ability to earn a living. Mr. Pisano ended by stating that due to a lack of revenue generation from having a 40-round rule in Maryland, promoters cannot put shows on consistently and successfully.

Joe Veazey, a boxer, stated to the Commission that he would also be open to officials coming to gyms to watch fights and receive more training.

Brandon Chambers, a boxer, stated to the Commission that he also believes that state officials should attend amateur shows to gain more experience in the ring.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at roughly 3:48pm.

/s/ David Norman

Chairman