

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018

On Wednesday, August 15, 2018, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Arnold “Arnie” Dansicker at 2:02 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Dansicker; Commissioner Charles “Chuck” Gast; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel; Deputy Commissioner John Papavasiliou, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; and Michelle Davis, Senior Policy Analyst, Maryland Department of Legislative Services. Absent: Commissioner David Norman and Commissioner David Shull.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

The April 25, 2018 Commission minutes, which were previously distributed to all Commission members for review, were discussed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the April 25, 2018 minutes of the Commission.

PRELIMINARY “SUNSET” EVALUATION OF THE COMMISSION

Deputy Commissioner Papavasiliou announced that the Commission is currently undergoing a preliminary evaluation by the Maryland Department of Legislative Services, known as the “sunset” evaluation, and which, as required by State law, is conducted every ten years.

Deputy Commissioner Papavasiliou reported that Michelle Davis, Senior Policy Analyst for the Maryland Department of Legislative Services, is conducting the preliminary evaluation.

The Commission members welcomed Ms. Davis and offered to be of assistance to her in any way they can as she seeks pertinent regulatory information from the

Commission for her preliminary evaluation report.

Commissioner Gast explained that the Commission's mission when sanctioning and regulating events is to ensure that the safety of the contestants competing is protected and that the contests being held are fair.

Deputy Commissioner Papavasiliou noted that the Commission maintains a dedicated and experienced staff of per diem employees who enforce regulations at Commission-sanctioned events through a variety of essential and productive roles they play.

Executive Director Pannella remarked that the Commission has been strongly committed to developing innovative measures designed to support fighter safety, citing the Commission's key role in a groundbreaking medical brain study of a large group of professional boxers entitled "A Prospective Longitudinal Study of Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury (CTBI)". Mr. Pannella recognized Commission Chief Physician Dr. John W. Stiller, M.D. for his leadership role in creating the medical study, which involved boxers voluntarily participating in a series of medical tests over a period of time during boxing weigh-in activities supervised by the Commission.

Chairman Dansicker noted that the Commission checks to confirm that promoters have a proper security plan in place for their respective events. He also noted that, to ensure contestants are matched fairly for purposes of fighter safety while also ensuring that patrons attending these events "get a bang for their buck", the Commission does not approve mismatches.

Commissioner Moore stated that the Commission is "honest, fair and straight" in carrying out its regulatory practices. He noted that the Commission continuously strives to reflect this focus in many ways, such as reviewing on an ongoing basis the work of its referees to ensure that the Commission's referees are adhering to the highest officiating standards.

Commissioner Gast remarked that, when he initially began his term as a Commission member, he was both surprised and impressed by the "depth" of the Commission's work ranging from the medical testing of contestants to developing

and implementing various administrative protocols to promote both safety and efficiency in regulating Commission-sanctioned events.

APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion in regard to the professional wrestling events currently scheduled to be held in the State of Maryland.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by James “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA):

Friday, June 15, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Tall Cedars Hall
2501 Putty Hill Avenue - Parkville, Maryland
Promoter: James “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as
Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA);

Saturday, July 28, 2018 - 5:30 p.m. Starting Time
Rain date: Saturday, August 4, 2018
Outdoors Wrestling Event
The Gentlemen’s Gold Club
5801 Pulaski Highway - Baltimore, Maryland
Promoter: James “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as
Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA);

Saturday, September 22, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Tall Cedars Hall
2501 Putty Hill Avenue - Parkville, Maryland
Promoter: James “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as
Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA); and

Saturday, October 26, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Tall Cedars Hall

2501 Putty Hill Avenue - Parkville, Maryland
Promoter: James “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as
Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA).

“LUCHE LIBRE” PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENT
JUNE 19, 2018

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion in regard to the “Luche Libre” professional wrestling event held on June 19, 2018 at the Mexico Lindo Restaurant/MXL Night Club in Bladensburg, Maryland. Mr. Pannella noted that licensed promoter James “Jimmy” Morris served as the promoter for this wrestling event and that wrestlers participating in the “Lucha Libre” wrestling circuit typically travel to various venues located throughout the United States to wrestle.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Dansicker reported that he and Executive Director Pannella recently represented the Commission at a memorial service held in honor of Frank Gilbert, a longtime boxing trainer and boxing manager in the Baltimore, Maryland area who passed away on March 12, 2018 at the age of 83.

Chairman Dansicker reported further that he spoke to the crowd attending Mr. Gilbert’s memorial service, noting that Mr. Gilbert spent “a lifetime in the sport of boxing” and was widely respected for his numerous contributions to the local boxing community.

Chairman Dansicker noted that, with the upcoming professional MMA event scheduled to be held on June 23, 2018 at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland, the sport of MMA is expanding to casinos in the State of Maryland.

COUNSEL’S REPORT

Counsel London had nothing additional to report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Pannella had nothing additional to report.

UPDATE ON JUNE 16, 2018
PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following update in regard to the professional boxing event being promoted by Jeter Promotions, LLC, advertising as “Jeter Promotions”, and being held on June 16, 2018 at The Gardens Ice House in Laurel, Maryland.

The professional boxing event will feature a ten-round boxing contest between Gerome Quigley and Raymond Serrano for two boxing titles: (1) the “United States Boxing Association (USBA) Welterweight Title”, with the USBA being affiliated with the International Boxing Federation (IBF); and (2) the “United States National Boxing Championship (USNBC) Welterweight Title”, being affiliated with the World Boxing Council (WBC).

This is the first time that a professional boxing event is being held at the venue.

Nine scheduled professional boxing contests have been approved by the Commission for this boxing event.

UPDATE ON JUNE 23, 2018
PROFESSIONAL MMA EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following update in regard to the professional MMA event being promoted by John J. Rallo, III, advertising as “Shogun Fights”, and being held on June 23, 2018 at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

Two of the MMA contests being featured as a part of this MMA event include Heather Walker-Leahy versus Whittany Pyles and Stephen Moleski versus Sean Reed.

This is the first time that a MMA event is being held at the venue.

Eleven scheduled professional MMA contests have been approved by the Commission for this MMA event.

UPDATE ON JUNE 29, 2018
PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following update in regard to the professional boxing event being promoted by Shabazz Brotherz, LLC, advertising as “Shabazz Brotherz”, and being held on June 29, 2018 at Martin’s West in Woodlawn, Maryland.

The professional boxing event will feature a ten-round boxing contest between Tyrieshia Douglas and Helen Joseph for the “Universal Boxing Federation (UBF) Super Flyweight Title” and a four-round amateur boxing contest between Lorenzo Simpson and Maurice Winslow, Jr.. The amateur boxing contest is being sanctioned and supervised by the South Atlantic Association of USA Boxing, Inc..

Eight professional boxing contests are being proposed for this boxing event.

REVIEW OF MAY 19, 2018
PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by TGB Promotions, LLC advertising as “TGB Promotions”, televised live on the Showtime Network’s “Showtime Championship Boxing” series, and held on May 19, 2018 at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

The boxing event included seven professional boxing contests and 50 scheduled rounds of boxing competition.

Chairman Dansicker, Commission Gast and Deputy Commissioner Papavasiliou were in attendance.

The main event featured Joseph Diaz, Jr. versus Gary Allen Russell, Jr. in a twelve-round boxing contest for the “World Boxing Council (WBC) Featherweight Title”,

with Mr. Russell winning by a unanimous decision.

Commissioner Gast commended Commission Referee Kenny Chevalier for his efforts in maintaining control of the fight while officiating the Diaz-Russell boxing contest.

Chairman Dansicker opined that the Diaz-Russell boxing contest should be a candidate for “fight of the year” in boxing media circles.

Deputy Commissioner Papavasiliou opined that the Commission’s referees and judges who worked at the boxing event were extremely professional in performing their respective duties.

Mr. Pannella reported that the Commission worked very closely with MGM National Harbor and its security personnel to ensure that there was the appropriate amount of, and placing of, security coverage in the boxing ring both before, and after, each boxing contest.

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING

The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room, 500 North Calvert Street in Baltimore, Maryland:

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 p.m..

Patrick Pannella
Executive Director