



**Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Boxing and Wrestling Commission**

**February 21, 2019
Minutes**

The District of Columbia Boxing and Wrestling Commission held its scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 21, 2018 at 1100 4th Street SW, Conference Room 200A, Washington, D.C. 20024. The Commission held its Executive Session prior to the Commission public meeting.

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The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Weers at 7:02 pm and attendance was taken.

Commission Members Present: **Adam Weers, Andrew Huff (Kim Lockett via phone)**

Commission Members Absent: **None**

Staff Members Present: **S. Skip Brown, Deputy Commissioner, Kia Winston, Attorney for the Commission, Cynthia Briggs Interim Program Manager, Daniel McCoy, Administrative Officer.**

Staff Members Absent: **None**

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Agenda Item: Comments from the Public:

- Henry Discombobulating Jones announced that former Commission official Paul Artist is being honored April 28th by the Washington Sports Hall of Fame at the Washington Court Hotel. Mr. Jones urged the Commission to show its support at the event support.

Additionally, he stated that he attended the Alabama Boxing Hall event in Tuscaloosa and he announced the induction ceremony honoring Ernie Shavers, Benjamin Lewis and others. Deontay Wilder and Evander Holyfield were also in attendance ringside and it was an outstanding affair he stated. He appealed to the Commission that we should consider celebrating DC local trainers, fighters and personalities as well.

- Deputy Commissioner Brown indicated that Henry Jones will be retiring; all present wished him congratulations. He will have his retirement celebration February 28th at the Elevation Building, NE Washington, DC.



- William Magruder addressed the Commission reviewing the history of his initial event in September 2017, an amateur charitable event that was postponed and the December 1, 2018 event. He stressed that although the events were not financially profitable, he stressed the strong desire to bring boxing back to Washington, DC. Especially, since the larger promoters and other promoters are hosting events in Maryland and outside of Washington, DC. Mr. Magruder emphasized that initially, he was unclear as to why there were challenges that he faced during the December 1st event from the Commission. After the event, he wanted to have a meeting to address any concerns the Commission may have had, provide his feedback about how he was treated and seek to resolve all matters. Further, he wanted to meet with the Commission to ensure that future events would run smooth; and he wanted to gain the support of the Commission hosting future events, to reduce the financial burden and other impediments he faced. Especially because he is a Washington, DC native and unlike other promoters, he feels passionate about bringing boxing back to the city.

Chairman Weers responded thanking Mr. Magruder for attending the meeting and sharing his thoughts and feelings about the events that brought us here. The Chairman acknowledge that some of the Commission procedures and communications have made it very difficult for promoters and in the December 1st event in particular, to host events in the city. This has resulted in promoters going to surrounding jurisdictions or jurisdictions beyond the metropolitan area. The Chairman stressed that had Mr. Magruder attended the December Commission meeting and debrief with Mr. Pendergrast, he would have heard a considerable amount of praise by the Commission for the December 1st event, which was well deserved. He further indicated that it is a good idea for us to meet as requested, to provide feedback to the Commission and vice a versa. This approach would improve our dealings with each other. It was agreed that two dates would be provided and a meeting will be set.

- Commissioner Huff announce that Patrick Clark is the new NXT Heavy Weight Champion. Mr. Clark is a Washington, DC native. He came from Maryland Championship Wrestling; and his ring name is Velveteen Dream.

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Agenda Item: Minutes:

- Upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Lockett and properly seconded by Commissioner Huff, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the January 17, 2019 minutes.

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Agenda Item: Old Business:

- NOVA Pro-Wrestling: Commissioner Huff indicated that everything is moving along; the promoter is in the process of completing/submitting the permit to host the event at the Thurgood Marshall Center. He also announced that the promoter will be partnering with DC9 Club, which will be doing some pre and post show promotions for the event.

Deputy Commissioner announced that Jonathan Martin, a wrestler in Maryland, just applied for a promoter's license to do wrestling events in the city.

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Agenda Item: New Business:

- Events to Approve Mr. Huff stated that this is the last televised show before WrestleMania and it is a big show:
 - WWE Pro-Wrestling Event, Monday, April 1st at the Capital One Arena.

Upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Huff and properly seconded by Commissioner Lockett, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the Event date of April 1st Pro-Wrestling Event.

- 2019 Mayor's Cup/Dr. McKnight Event: Deputy Commissioner Brown indicated that we need to decide what the Commission will do regarding potentially merging the two events. Chairman Weers indicated that he had conversations with the new Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Director Delano Hunter about combining the events or ideas about reconstituting the Mayor's Cup, such as: qualifying tournaments to be eligible to compete in the tournament. The Chairman suggested that staff should contact DPR staff regarding possibly serving on a committee and in particular, the Commission can contact other Commissions to have their amateurs to participate when we get to that point.

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Agenda Item: Adjournment:

Chairman Weers adjourned the Commission meeting at 7:48 pm EST without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Weers", written over a horizontal line.

Adam Weers, Chairperson

3.28.19

Date

Recorder & Minutes prepared by: S. Skip Brown, Deputy Commissioner