



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

**March 15, 2018
Minutes**

The District of Columbia Boxing and Wrestling Commission held its scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 1100 4th Street SW, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Washington, D.C. 20024.

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Weers at 7:03 pm and attendance was taken.

Commission Members Present: Adam Weers, Andrew Huff (Via Phone) and Kim Lockett (Via Phone)

Commission Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Andrew Jackson, Commission Administrator, S. Skip Brown, Deputy Commissioner, Cynthia Briggs, Commission Executive (Via Phone).

Staff Members Absent: None

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Agenda Item: Comments from the Public:

- Chairman Weers announced the passing on of Eugene “Gene” Hughes, then the Chairman asked Henry DisCombobulating Jones to share some reflections about Mr. Hughes. He stressed his passion to help the youth in the DMV, to provide a safe haven and to see them flourish into champions and great citizens.

Deputy Commissioner Brown shared that the Commission did recognize Mr. Hughes at its 2nd Annual Dr. McKnight Amateur Event.

The Chairman shared how Mr. Hughes would endeavor to enter the ring any and all times he was call upon to be recognized, which demonstrates how important it is to recognize important individuals in boxing and combative sports in general. All agreed that the Midtown Youth Academy was true to its name.



- The tragic death of Michael Ward was acknowledge. Mr. Jones pointed out that he was an upcoming Junior Middleweight in the 1980s and 1990s out of Sugar Ray Leonard’s gym. He indicated that the events immediately preceding his death shined a spot-light on the impact mental illness has on boxers later after their careers end. We need to figure out how to address this issue.
- Josef Pearson Amateur Muay Thai Event, **Saturday, March 3, 2018**: It was the consensus that this was a very good event. The event started on time, there were no delays with the ring, the bouts were excellent and a very good turn-out.

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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 February 15, 2018 minutes.

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Agenda Item: Old Business:

- NOVA Pro Wrestling: Commission Huff stated that there is an upcoming WWE NXT show at the Anthem, so the Commission should look to capitalize on the momentum for additional wrestling events.

The Anthem is a new venue and there will be other venues being built, specifically the St. Elizabeth’s East Entertainment and Sports Arena, which should be open later this year. These venues provide an opportunity to have a continued conversation with city officials about creating cost effective ways to host more boxing in the city.

- Strategic Plan Briefing: Deputy Commissioner Brown provided an update on four areas of the strategic plan, they were the updates to the Website, the Medical Review Committee, partnering with the Department of Parks and Recreation and partner with local and International Combative Sports Organizations. In the future, posting the progress of the goals in the strategic plan on the website will be considered.

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Agenda Item: New Business:

- Fiesta DC Lucha Libre Wrestling Event: Commissioner Huff indicated that the proposed date for the event is September and it will entail some additional follow-up.
- Professional Fighters League (PFL) (MMA Tournament Event): Mr. Brown introduced the following topics: Referee Camera, Gloves Punch Counter, 2 Rounds Bouts with brief discussion. Detailed discussion was tabled until a conference call with the PFL principals can be held and to invite them to present at a future Commission meeting.
- Event to Approve: Mr. Brown announced the event, indicating that the Permit Application is in order.
 - WWE Pro-Wrestling Event, **Thursday, April 19, 2018**

Upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Huff and properly seconded by Commissioner Lockett, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the WWE NXT pro-wrestling event.

- Upcoming Events: Deputy Commissioner Brown announced the following events.
 - Officials Training: March 24, 2018: Deputy Commissioner Brown announced that there will be Officials training at Kenilworth Recreation Center on March 24th from 8:45 am to 5:00 pm. Fernando Yamasaki will conduct the Mixed Martial Arts portion of the training, Malik Waleed will conduct the Boxing portion and the Chief Officials will conduct the judge and inspector portions of the training, along with video presentation.
 - Chad Clinton-CNC Entertainment Pro-Boxing, **Saturday, April 14, 2018 (Postponed)**: To be rescheduled in the fall.
 - Dr. Arnold McKnight Event, **Saturday, September 8, 2018**: Kenilworth Recreation Center is being considered for this event. The format will be similar as previous years.
- Upcoming Amateur Boxing Events: The Chairman announced the following events:
 - Golden Gloves Tournament Semi-Finals, the time is 7:30 pm at Rosecroft Raceway, **Saturday, March 24, 2018**,
 - Amateur Boxing at New Beginnings facility, **Saturday, March 17, 2018**
 - The Joe Louis Award Ceremony & Amateur Boxing Event, **Saturday, June 23, 2018**
- The April 2018 Commission meeting date was changed to April 26, 2018.



- Deputy Commissioner Brown encouraged Commission Officials to renew their license before March 31, 2018, since that is the expiration date for all Commission licensees.

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Agenda Item: Adjournment:

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Huff and seconded by Commissioner Lockett, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm EST.

Respectfully submitted,


Adam Weers, Chairperson

4-26-18
Date

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