

# Occupational and Professional Licensing District of Columbia Combat Sports Commission

# October 12, 2022 Minutes

The District of Columbia Combat Sports Commission held its scheduled meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, via Webex Teleconference format.

\* \* \* \* \*

The public meeting was called to order by Commissioner Huff at **12:07** pm and attendance was taken.

Commission Members Present: Chairman Andrew Huff, Commissioner Shawn Townsend, and Commissioner Christopher Jenkins

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Kim Lockett and Commissioner Roger Mitchell, M.D.

Staff Members Present: Nicole McClendon – Program Coordinator, Skip Brown – Deputy Commissioner, James White – Legal Counsel, and Kimberly Troxler – Program Support Specialist

Staff Members Absent: Cynthia Briggs – Program Manager

### **Agenda Item: Comments**

#### • From the Commission:

**Chairman Huff** – Recognized the passing of Arthur "Buddy" Hernandez, owner of Old School Boxing Gym. Buddy was a big part of the boxing community and did a lot for kids and the homeless population in the area. Chairman Huff and Commissioner Lockett attended a vigil held outside of Buddy's home. The Commission will have future discussions concerning what we can do to honor his life and legacy.

#### • From the Public:

**Sharon Sands** – Questioned whether the Commission had made any changes to the conduct of the bout rules, in particular the 3-knockdown rule. Deputy Commissioner Brown indicated that though the rules may be dated, they are still applicable. In the case of a discrepancy, the Commission has adopted the use of the unified rules. The Commission will review the rules and make updates as necessary at a future date.

#### Executive Session – Closed to the Public

 Upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Jenkins, and properly seconded by Commissioner Townsend, the Commission unanimously voted to enter into closed Executive Session pursuant to the authority of D.C. Official Code Section 2-575(4) (a), (9) and (13) to receive advice from counsel, review application eligibility requirements and discuss disciplinary actions.

#### **Agenda Item: Minutes:**

• Upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Jenkins and properly seconded by Commissioner Townsend, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the Meeting Minutes for September 14<sup>th</sup>.

# **Agenda Item: Old Business:**

- Combat Sports Commission Open House held Saturday, October 1st at the Columbia Heights Community Center's Boxing Gym: Chairman Huff thanked the Commissioners and Staff for their hard work and dedication to making this a great event. Event attendance included DPR Director Delano Hunter and staff, boxing and wrestling promoters, and a bunch of kids from the community. Former Commission Chair Scottie Irving will received a plaque recognizing his efforts with the Commission and across the District of Columbia. Former Chairs Adam Weers, Jason Turner, and Cora Masters Barry were also recognized but unable to attend.
- Davis Boxing Event held Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Mary Virginia Merrick Center: The Commission discussed issues related to the behavior exhibited by some of the fighters and their corners after the fight that are in direct conflict with the Commission's regulations and code of conduct. Chairman Huff called for a motion to send a letter of admonition to fighters identified as participants in the activity to remind them that their behavior was unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Jenkins and properly seconded by Commissioner Townsend, the Commission unanimously voted to send letters of admonition to the fighters who exhibited unsportsmanlike behavior after the fight.

A letter of feedback will also be sent to the promoter, which is standard practice for every event.

#### **Agenda Item: New Business:**

## **Events to Approve:**

 Fight Club Pro-Wrestling Event, Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> @ Edgewood Arts Center, 3415 8th St NE, Washington, DC 20017

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Jenkins and properly seconded by Commissioner Townsend, the Commission unanimously voted to approve this event upon the receipt of all requested documents.

- DC Brau Brewing Pro-Wrestling Event, Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> @ The Brewery, 3178-B Bladensburg Road NE, Washington DC 20018
  Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Jenkins and properly seconded by
  - Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Jenkins and properly seconded by Commissioner Townsend, the Commission unanimously voted to approve this event upon the receipt of all requested documents.
- That's the Plug Pro-Am Boxing Event, Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> @ WEG Studios (formerly BET Soundstage), 1235 W St, NE, Washington DC 20018 Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Jenkins and properly seconded by Commissioner Townsend, the Commission unanimously voted to approve this event upon the receipt of all requested documents.

# **Agenda Item: Adjournment:**

• Commissioner Huff properly adjourned at 12:33 pm without objection.

The Next Scheduled Regular Meeting is **Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at noon** via Teleconference/Webex.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Huff, Chairman

Date \_\_11.23.22\_\_

Minutes Recorded & Prepared by: Kimberly Troxler, DLCP/OPL Program Support Specialist