

MN Combative Sports Advisory Council
Department of Labor and Industry
Wednesday, August 10, 2022 @ 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present:

Veid Muiznieks
Vanessa Vogl
Denny Nelson

DLI Staff & Visitors:

Matt Schowalter – DLI
Eileen McNiff – DLI
Kate Perushek – DLI
Ali Afsharjavan – DLI

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:20 p.m. and a quorum was present.

2. Selection of New Chairperson

Veid Muiznieks was nominated as the new Chairperson and it was unanimous approved.

3. Approval and/or additions to February 16, 2022 Minutes

MSP: Approve the February 16, 2022 minutes as presented.

4. Status of Proposed Legislative Changes

Interim Deputy Commissioner Perushek discussed how OCS' 2022 legislative proposal did not get voted on. The proposal was agreed to by the House and Senate, but it did not get voted on so the proposal did not pass. Perushek believes that the proposal was a good step for OCS as we were able to educate the legislature on the role OCS plays and the importance of our role. OCS plans on taking feedback received from legislators and proposing a new bill in 2023.

Perushek also informed the Council that Commissioner Roslyn Robertson has retired. Nicole Blissenbach will be the acting Commissioner while Perushek will be the Interim Deputy Commissioner. Perushek will still be tasked with overseeing OCS.

Some general questions for Perushek regarding the legislative proposal from the advisory council members.

5. Updated Advisory Council Contracts

McNiff emphasized that the Advisory Council plays an important role of advising the commissioner on combative sports. OCS asks that if a Councilor sees something at an event that they feel needs to be addressed, they should send an email to OCS on the Monday following an event. McNiff reminded Councilors that like all OCS staff and officials, members should not be talking to the media. If a Councilor witnesses something at an event regarding an official or OCS, they should not be addressing the issue with those individuals. Councilors should be sending an email on Monday informing OCS of the observed issue. A Councilor's main role is to observe, not be involved in OCS event operations.

6. Update on Past and Upcoming Events

Schowalter gave update on the event schedule. Seeing more events than have in the last few years. A couple of cancellations, but a full schedule. Some new promoters looking to get licensed but are holding off until next year to get licensed.

Muiznieks asked about a change in the need for Councilors to help out at events. Schowalter stated that we have staff available to perform those duties so if staff is available, they will perform those duties. If under staffed, OCS may ask Councilors to help. Councilors are able to attend and observe any event, they just may not always be asked to help with administrative duties.

7. 2022 ABC Conference Highlights

Schowalter gave an overview of the 2022 ABC Conference in Niagara Falls, NY including officials training.

8. Open Scoring

Schowalter informed the Council of the growing trend of Open Scoring in combat sports. Schowalter explained what Open Scoring is, the states that are using it, and some of the data from states that are using it. Schowalter would like to possibly do a test run and allow promoters to decide if they want to use it or not.

Some general discussion and questions among the Council regarding Open Scoring. Council is generally in support of testing Open Scoring in Minnesota.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:10pm.