

**COMMITTEE OF THE PROFESSIONAL BOXING, WRESTLING AND
MARTIAL ARTS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

MINUTES

A committee meeting was held on March 30, 2011, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, with the following individuals present:

Gordon N. Dixon, Director
Harold Thomas Green, Jr., MD, Advisory Board Member
Rick McCoy, Advisory Board Member (arrived 5:24 p.m.)
G. Clark Walters, Jr., Advisory Board Member

Whitson Robinson, Advisory Board Member, was not present.

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Mark N. Courtney, Deputy Director of Licensing and Regulation
David Holland, Executive Director

No representative from the Office of the Attorney General was present.

Mr. Dixon called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Call to Order

Public Comment Period – Matt Douglas, a promoter of amateur mixed martial arts (MMA) events, spoke to the committee. Mr. Douglas stated that without state regulation and recognition of amateur MMA events in Virginia, other jurisdictions, which require a certain number of amateur MMA bouts in order for someone to qualify for a license as a professional MMA fighter, sometimes do not recognize amateur MMA fights that occurred in Virginia. Mr. Douglas indicated he wants to be aware of, and comply with, any new requirements regarding the regulation of amateur MMA events and ensure that amateur MMA fighters are properly prepared for and given credit for amateur bouts in Virginia.

Public Comment

Mr. McCoy arrived at 5:24 p.m.

Arrival of Mr.
McCoy

The committee members approved the agenda by consensus.

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment Period – Brian Crenshaw and Lindsey MacMhaolain, of the World Kickboxing Association USA, addressed the committee.

Public Comment
Continued

Mr. Crenshaw and Ms. MacMhaolain indicated they are supportive of state mandated safety standards for amateur MMA events. They suggested that the cost of regulating amateur MMA events could be minimized by approving sanctioning bodies. Once approved by the state, the sanctioning bodies would be responsible for the cost of the event including complying with any state mandated safety standards as well as required event officials (in lieu of the state providing the event officials). Mr. Crenshaw and Ms. MacMhaolain also discussed the regulatory schemes used in Delaware and Tennessee.

At the December 15, 2010, Advisory Board meeting, Mr. Dixon appointed a committee of Dr. Green, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Walters to look at the issue of oversight of amateur MMA events in Virginia. Mr. Dixon asked the committee to look at how other states deal with this issue, safety concerns, cost concerns, as well as the statutory provisions of §§ 54.1-829 A and 54.1-830 of the *Code of Virginia*.

The Director and the committee members reviewed the statutory provisions of §§ 54.1-829 A and 54.1-830 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Mr. Dixon asked Mr. Holland to summarize and review the information obtained from the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) on this matter.

Mr. Holland suggested that by only regulating the promoters of amateur MMA events, the safety of the fighters could be achieved while minimizing the cost of regulation. Cost to the state and for the required license is an important factor and would be minimized as the state would not provide the officials for an event (the promoter would be required to do so).

Further discussion ensued as to whether amateur sanctioning bodies should be required to apply to the state for approval in order to conduct amateur MMA events.

After discussion, the committee agreed by consensus that some form of regulation of amateur MMA events is warranted.

Mr. Dixon requested the committee meet again in June to discuss potential regulation changes which would be required in order to effectively and efficiently regulate amateur MMA events in anticipation

**Review Charge of
Committee**

**Review §§ 54.1-829 A
and 54.1-830 of the
Code of Virginia**

**Review of
Information from
ABC**

**Consideration of
Impact of Regulation
of Portions of
Amateur MMA
Events**

of the existing law being amended to provide the state with the authority to regulate amateur MMA events. Prior to the June meeting, Mr. Dixon also requested staff to obtain and review the regulations of other states which regulate amateur MMA along with their associated budget and revenue information.

There was no other business to discuss.

Other Business

Conflict of Interest forms were completed by all members present.

**Conflict of Interest
Forms**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Adjourn



Gordon N. Dixon, Director

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Harold Thomas Green, Jr., MD
(Name of Board Member)
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: DPOR – Professional Boxing, Wrestling and Martial Arts Advisory Board
(Name of Board)
4. Meeting/IFF Date: March 30, 2010
(Date)

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

(Agenda Item)

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction: _____

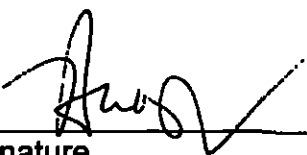
I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.



Signature

3/30/2010

Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Rick McCoy
(Name of Board Member)
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: DPOR – Professional Boxing, Wrestling and Martial Arts Advisory Board
(Name of Board)
4. Meeting/IFF Date: March 30, 2010
(Date)

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

(Agenda Item)

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction: _____

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

R McCoy
Signature

3-30-11
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: G. Clark Walters, Jr.
(Name of Board Member)
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: DPOR – Professional Boxing, Wrestling and Martial Arts Advisory Board
(Name of Board)
4. Meeting/IFF Date: March 30, 2010
(Date)

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Signature

Date

3/30/11