

Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission
 Commission Meeting
 November 5, 2012

The Commission Meeting for the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission was held on Thursday November 5, 2012 at The Sloppy Floyd Government Office Building 2 MLK Jr. Drive Atlanta, GA 30334.

The following Commissioners were present:	Others Present:
Don Geary- Chairman- by phone Rick Thompson-Vice Chairman JJ Biello Ben Kiker	Andy Foster, Executive Director Steve Lindsey- Executive Director Lisa Durden Attorney General Office [Graham Barron]- Adrian Patrick Leon de la Garza Bert Wells
	Nathan Webb Brett Moses Dave Oblas Megan Swartzlander Mark Mass Ben Royce

Commissioner Biello established that a quorum was present and the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission meeting that were scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. was called to order at 11:03 a.m.

Commissioner Biello wanted to establish that this was the last meeting with Andy Foster as director. Commissioner Biello wanted to thank Andy for all the work he has done for the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission.

Motion to Approve the committee meeting minutes from September 27, 2012. Commissioner Biello made a motion, Chairman Geary seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Motion to Approve the license application request for Sal Cenicola. All proper paperwork is in. He is 53 years old and wants to fight in the state of Georgia. Andy Foster said that he is physically fit to fight. Hasn't fought in 18 years. Andy Foster claims he should not fight someone who is in their twenties, but someone who is 50+ also. Commissioner Biello isn't comfortable in approving. Chairman Geary is not comfortable either. Commissioner Biello motioned to have Mr. Cenicola come to the meeting, Chairman Geary seconded and the Commission voted 4-0.

Motion to Approve JJLG Imports boxing permit for December 13, 2012. Commissioner Biello asked Andy Foster if all paperwork was in, it was. Vice Chairman

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Thompson asked if the matches have been made and if Andy Foster has seen them yet, they have not at the time.

Discussion of Secretary of States appointment to executive director, Vice Chairman Thompson does not approve, and does not know who will be a good match maker for these fights. Lisa Durden feels that the executive directors that Secretary Kemp appoints are qualified for the job. Vice Chairman Thompson said unless Steve Lindsey has proper qualifications then he will not approve of the decision to have Mr. Lindsey approve fights as a match maker. He is not comfortable giving that responsibility to someone who is not experienced in the sport. Lisa said they have spoken with Andy Foster, where Mr. Lindsey and the chief officials for the events would work together to make the matches. Chairman Geary said that it is not the Secretary of State plan; it is the plan of the commission to make the proper evaluations. Chairman Geary said Mr. Lindsey should be at the meeting. Mr. Lindsey is at the meeting via a video conference in Macon, and claims he is at the meeting because he can see and hear everyone. Andy Foster did a conference call with Mr. Lindsey and some officials, George Allen and Matthew Waller, about helping out with the match making. George would handle the northern part and Matthew would help with the southern part of the state. Vice Chairman is still not comfortable with that idea of outside people helping with match making. Steve Lindsey understands he has a long term learning curve needed for this job. Vice Chairman Thompson is happy with what Mr. Lindsey does with the other boards, however with this he is not. The commission does not feel that Secretary Kemp has picked a qualified person in Steve Lindsey. Lisa Durden feels that Mr. Lindsey could still do a good job at this position. Commissioner Biello feels that it is time to move on and work together. Commissioner Biello feels that if someone experienced can come in that would help, and he proposed to bring Kelly Farr in. Kelly Farr, did the job before Andy Foster, could help make the matches and help out now with experience in the boxing commissioners role. Vice Chairman Thompson opposed that idea right away, because he does not feel that Mr. Farr is detailed enough to make proper and fair matches. Chairman Geary does not agree with Kelly Farr as the director, because he claims Kelly is not involved enough to handle this. Chairman Geary feels like we would be giving the Secretary of State too much power, since Mr. Farr is the Deputy Secretary of State. Chairman Geary feels it would be too much of a problem to allow the Secretary of State to allow these matches and then if a problem occurs; it will fall back on the Commission and not the Secretary of State. Andy Foster says that he is more than comfortable allowing George Allen to make the matches in Atlanta and northern end of the state. Mr. Foster says to make sure you are a good match maker is know your fighter, by watching them fight and watching them enough when they fight. Mr. Foster also is comfortable enough with George Allen, as a match maker, because he has fought over 50 fights, head referee for MMA matches. Matthew Waller can handle the southern part of the state. Vice Chairman Thompson feels that someone who is not a state employee should not have that position. He says that George Allen is qualified for the job, but since he is not a state official, he would not allow Mr. Allen to have that role, it needs to be someone in the Secretary of State Office. The Attorney General's office says by law the Secretary of State appoints executive director and the executive director works with the commission. Commissioner Biello asks Mr. Lindsey for his comments. Steve Lindsey agrees with the commission saying that he has no experience and since the

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commission legally makes the approvals of fights and they are not comfortable with Steve Lindsey making fights. Mr. Lindsey is happy to work with George Allen and Matthew Waller to make the fights and then take them in front of the commission for approval. Mr. Lindsey wants to make sure that fights will continue to make fights happen. Vice Chairman Thompson says he will not approve any matches until there is a qualified person in the role of director. Vice Chairman Thompson will not approve fights because he is not going to have Mr. Lindsey work with other people to make sure that the fighters are safe. Commissioner Biello only brought up Kelly Farr's name to keep events moving, and matched properly since Mr. Farr has experience in this. There has to be a transitional period. Commissioner Biello asked Mr. Lindsey if he would ask Kelly Farr about this role. Commissioner Biello wants to make it known to the public that this is not shutting down. Steve Lindsey has no problem asking Kelly Farr about working with Lisa and Steve to make sure the fights are the proper fights. Commissioner Biello wants to continue to move forward and that events will continue to go on.

Motion to Approve with Commissioner Biello makes a motion that Steve Lindsey will get with Kelly Farr, to seek his help on the match making. No one seconded that. Commissioner Biello asked if any other motions. None were made. Commissioner Biello makes a motion to approve the JJLG Importers fight on December 13, 2012. No one seconded the motion.

Motion to Approve the December 8, 2012 Sugar Bert Boxing event permit.

Discussion with Commissioner Kiker says that since all promoters have paid the fees up to this point, he wants to approve all permits up to December 31, 2012, and table the rest until December meeting. Chairman Geary feels that is not right because they do not have a card set yet. It's not easy to just throw an event together; you have to have a staff to work the event to make it work. Chairman Geary says that if the event is approved, it still needs to be approved after the card is made. Commissioner Biello suggested George Allen again could assist with this. Chairman Geary still does not feel that is the best way to handle it. Andy Foster stated both the November 17, 2012 and December 15, 2012 fight cards have already been set and approved by him, with no changes to occur on them now. Andy Foster has also worked to approve some of the matches for the December 8, 2012 fight, and that fight has been approved. Andy said that events can change however, and Vice Chairman Thompson agreed with Andy Foster, saying that there needs to be someone in place who can approve these changes if they occur. Andy though still wants to see the fights occur since the promoters have already invested time and money. Commissioner Biello said that is what the commission is doing; they are making motions to approve the events. Andy wants to make a suggestion to the commission, by having the commission appoint a chief official to oversee all match making. Andy Foster recommends until the first of the year when Secretary Kemp appoints a new executive director. Vice Chairman Thompson said that Secretary Kemp could appoint someone tomorrow who is a qualified person. At the previous meeting a list was given to Secretary Kemp of qualified people. Chairman Geary said if we temporarily fix these issues then there is no reason to fix it properly. Commissioner Biello does not agree he is only trying to get these events to go on as planned. Commissioner Biello said that

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he does not want to get into a battle against the Secretary of State because he knows that is a battle they will lose. Chairman Geary said that the job has not changed and the number one thing is the fighter's safety. If that is not accomplished then events cannot go forward. Chairman Geary feels that they should have been more involved with the replacement of Mr. Foster, but instead just told this is who it is. There has been no discussion from the Secretary of State that this is fixed or when it will be fixed. Only that this is a temporary hold that will have to work for now. Chairman Geary disagrees with the temporary solution; he feels it needs to be handled now, because if it is not then why would it be fixed properly later down the line. Andy Foster wants to make another suggestion to the commission saying that George Allen and the Associations of Boxing, working together, match making could get handled. Mr. Foster does not want to see boxing and MMA events go away until a new person is in charge. Chairman Geary is not comfortable right now with letting someone have this temporary fix. The fighter's safety is number one thing that is being looked at right now. Commissioner Biello says the Steve Lindsey, Kelly Farr, and George Allen could work to make these events work. Not going to force Secretary Kemp to make a decision on the appointment or work together to get things figured out. Andy Foster wants to see the events go through because the promoters have put money into these events.

Motion to Approve the November 17, 2012 Gladiator X Promotions boxing event has been approved already with Andy Foster having the full card. Commissioner Biello made the motion, Vice Chairman Thompson says if the card is set and locked with no changes to it, no matter what then he seconds. Motion to approve that the card is set and locked with no changes. Commissioner Biello made the motion, Vice Chairman Thompson seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the event.

Discussion with Vice Chairman Thompson said that if the promoters and Andy Foster work to make the cards set the cards and have no changes to them at all then he is willing to move forward. That way ensures that the fights are in fact matched correctly by a person who is qualified to make fair matches. Andy said that he would do it no matter the time it will take to do before he leaves for California. December events need to be matched in the next day to make sure the fights are safe. Chairman Geary agrees with this idea on fights need to be matched by Andy, and also saying that if meeting needs to occur more than once a month, to create a safe event, it will be done because Chairman Geary wants to properly do his and the commissions job. Adrian Patrick wants to know if a change can be made, Vice Chairman replied with as long as Andy is still an employee of the Secretary of State then the card can be, after that, no changes.

Motion to Approve the Undisputed Promotions LLC MMA Event permit for January 19, 2013. Commissioner Biello says that he will motion to approve with Andy Foster approves the card, with the card standing how it is before he goes. Chairman Geary feels that is a change occurs then it is scratched. Commissioner Biello says that the change will come in front of the board. Andy Foster said to only work on this year's events and vote on the 2013 events at the December event. No one seconded this motion to approve the event.

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Motion to Approve the Undisputed Promotions MMA Event permit on March 22, 2013, Vice Chairman Thompson motioned to table that, Chairman Geary second and the Commission voted 4-0 to table.

Motion to Approve James Corbett promoter's license. Andy foster said that he has all his proper paperwork in, and Vice Chairman motions to approve. Chairman Geary second and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Motion to Approve James Corbett MMA Promotions event permit on January 26, 2013. Vice Chairman Thompson made a motion to table. Chairman Geary second and the Commission voted 4-0 to table.

Motion to Approve Black and Blue Entertainment/Exclusive Concepts MMA Event Permit for January 26, 2013. Vice Chairman Thompson motioned to table. Chairman Geary second and the Commission voted 4-0 to table.

Motion to Approve the withdrawal of the motion by Commissioner Biello to approve the JJLG Importers event and re consider. Commissioner Biello makes a motion to approve the event permit only if Andy Foster can approve the cards and that no changes will be made. Vice Chairman Thompson seconds the motion and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

Motion to Approve Sugar Bert Boxing Promotions Boxing event permit for December 8, 2012. Commissioner Biello asked if there was a motion to approve, he makes the motion that only Andy Foster can approve the cards and that no changes can be made. Commissioner Biello motioned, Vice Chairman Thompson second and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve. Chairman Geary wants to make sure that Andy Foster could staff the events as well, and we said he would.

Discussion with Commissioner Biello wanted to make sure that Steve Lindsey knew that is not how a normal board meeting went on. Commissioner Biello opens up the floor to public comment.

Discussion with Bert Wells, Sugar Bert Promotions, wanted to thank Andy Foster for all his support and his efforts that he has done for the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission. He hopes Andy the very best.

Discussion with Adrian Patrick, wanted to say with change in the commission there is always some different views. Adrian feels that Mr. Lindsey can be a good replacement and wants to know that Andy Foster is leaving a legacy behind. Adrian wanted to say that Andy Foster really changed the commission and he brought a more diversity to the sport. Wished Andy the best

Discussion with Leon de la Garza, JJLG Importers, wanted to thank Andy Foster for all the support for his event. Garza also wanted to thank the commission for allowing his event to go on in Georgia.

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Discussion with Nathan Webb, Black and Blue Entertainment, feels is it a loss for both the commission and the promoters. Mr. Webb wanted to make sure the commission was aware that a show takes 90-120 days to get an event ready. It is hard to get an event going with such short notice. He makes his fight card out 45 days before the event. Mr. Webb says he knows he is liable at these events, as well as the commission. He wants to know if the match maker will be settled by the December event so he can go ahead with his January event.

Discussion with Brett Moses says he has seen the commission grow, and said that when Andy Foster came in, someone who truly cared for the sport did a great job. Wanted to say thanks to Andy for everything and that he will miss him.

Discussion with Dave Oblas, Wild Bills Fight Night, wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting. He wanted to also thank Andy Foster for everything that he has done. Hopes that whatever comes out of the commission is for the best.

Discussion with Megan Swartzlander, she wanted to thank the commission for the stance they are taking as the fighter's safety is the number one thing.

Discussion with Mark Mask, ISKA rep, wanted to know how the amateur sanctions would be handled. Commissioner Biello said not to worry about that right now.

Discussion with Ben Royce has been around MMA for a long time. He is aware that rumors do not need to be spread, but he feels the appointment should be given to the proper person. He doesn't feel that events will be able to move forward since there is not someone who is qualified to handle to rules of this position. Commissioner Biello said rumors are the worst thing that can be said because things get taken way out of context.

Discussion with Vice Chairman Thompson, said that he agrees with Mr. Royce saying that MMA will change if there is not a qualified person who comes in to take over the role of Andy Foster.

Discussion with Lisa Durden, wanting to wrap up saying the Secretary Kemp is not trying to take away MMA and Boxing. The Secretary of State want to make sure with help of the commission that events are run safely and that the fighters are safe to fight. Vice Chairman Thompson does not agree with what Lisa Durden is saying.

Discussion with Will Fisher, MMA Referee, wanted to thank Andy Foster for everything that he has done. Also wanted to notice what Chairman Geary said about how Georgia is one of the best commissions.

Discussion with Chairman Geary wanted to thank everyone that is in the room. Wanted to comment about the Secretary of State only appoints the director of the board, the Commission is the people who approve the fights. Chairman Geary says that he supports what the commission is doing and the rules that they are following. He wanted to say that people are able to voice their opinions outside of the commission.

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Discussion with Mark Mask, wants to know why the ISKA cannot take over with match making events. Vice Chairman Thompson said he would not vote that to happen.

Discussion with Adrian Patrick, can ISKA do amateur MMA? Yes they can.

Vice Chairman Thompson presented Andy Foster with a gift to thank him for everything that he has done for the commission while he served over it in Georgia.

Andy Foster wanted to say thank you for all the support he has received.

Chairman Geary wanted to say thank you and best of luck to him

Motion to adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.