



OTHER REPORT

Report Date: March 10, 2009  
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Meeting Date: March 26, 2009

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets  
FROM: Vancouver Athletic Commission  
SUBJECT: Vancouver Athletic Commission - Annual Report for the year 2008

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT this report be received for information.

**CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The City Manager submits the foregoing for information.

**COUNCIL POLICY**

There is no applicable Council Policy.

**PURPOSE**

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Vancouver Athletic Commission, for the period November 2007 to November 2008.

**BACKGROUND**

The Vancouver Athletic Commission (VAC) was established by Council in 1945. Section 338 of the *Vancouver* Charter empowers Council to establish the Vancouver Athletic Commission and the City of Vancouver By-law No. 2875 provides the Vancouver Athletic Commission's mandate.

City Council annually appoints the members of the Vancouver Athletic Commission to regulate prize fights in compliance with the *Criminal Code of Canada*. Under the *Vancouver Charter*, the Commission regulates contests and exhibitions involving professional boxing, wrestling, and kick boxing (mixed martial arts).

As part of the City's review of advisory committees to Council, the composition of the Commission was changed December 12, 2006, to have five appointees, rather than four and one Councillor Liaison. Membership in 2008 was as follows:

- George Angelomatis, Chair (*currently serving as a Provincial Court Judge*)
- Dr. Rajindar Sandhu, Vice-Chair/Treasurer (*retired general practitioner*)
- Roy Nosella, Past Chair (*retired elementary school principal*)
- Mirko Mladenovic, Co-Secretary (*currently a cable technician in the BC film industry*)
- Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Co-Secretary (*developer/construction manager/public relations consultant-owner*)

The Commission appointed Dr. Morgan Brache as its Medical Advisor in the summer of 2006. In compliance with the rigid regulations of the Canadian Boxing Federation and the State of Nevada which is known as a leader in the field, the VAC Medical Advisor, along with the Commission, ensures that safety remains our highest priority. The Medical Advisor and the other ringside physician(s) receive a fee for service which is paid by the event promoter.

The first contact with the Commission is through the City Clerk's Office. Meetings are called by the Chair to address issues and event proposals and occur on an infrequent basis. Informal meetings and regular meetings increase before and after any promotion (event).

The Commission is a self sustaining entity. Modest licensing fees and seat taxes enable Commissioners to attend Annual General Meetings of the Canadian Boxing Federation for discussions and updates on rules and regulations. The Canadian Boxing Federation holds its meeting at the same time as the American Association of Boxing Commissions. While the Vancouver Athletic Commission is a member of the Canadian Boxing Federation, it is not a member of the Association of Boxing Commissions but has established contacts there.

## DISCUSSION

Despite several requests relating to the status of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) in Vancouver, the delay and lack of Council action resulted in no sanctioned events for the period October 2007 to October 2008. The boxing aspect had no formal application and wrestling was handled through the licensing department.

It is the VAC's opinion that the lack of direction is harmful to its ability to respond to active enquiries and to promoter's requests regarding MMA's.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

## CONCLUSION

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information. The Vancouver Athletic Commission looks forward to another year of service to the City and support for its efforts.

In closing, the Commission wishes to recognize Mr. Roy Nosella, a long serving Commissioner who has spent over 40 years as a volunteer on the Vancouver Athletic Commission (VAC). Mr. Nosella has decided not to re apply for the 2009 term. The City is blessed to have had the services of such a dedicated gentleman for such a long period. His contributions have much to do with the fact that the VAC is considered one of the best in North America.

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