



OTHER REPORT

Report Date: December 7, 2009
Contact: Raj Sandhu
Contact No.: 604.263.2980
RTS No.: 08425
VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11
Meeting Date: December 17, 2009

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets

FROM: Vancouver Athletic Commission

SUBJECT: Vancouver Athletic Commission - Annual Report for the year
November 2008 to November 2009

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received for information.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager submits the foregoing for INFORMATION.

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Vancouver Athletic Commission for the period of November 2008 to November 2009.

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.

Membership in 2009 was as follows:

- Dr. Rajindar Sandhu, Chair
- Mirko Mladenovic
- Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Vice-Chair
- Bryan MacLeod
- George Angelomatis (*resigned June 2009*)

**VPD Inspector Rick McKenna and Deputy Chief License Inspector Tom Hammel are Staff Liaisons.*

Dr. Morgan Brache is the Commission's Medical Advisor. 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. 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.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Commission is to control and supervise professional boxing, martial arts and wrestling contests or exhibitions in the City of Vancouver. It prescribes the rules of such contests and exhibitions and, if necessary, may prohibit them.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

There were few shows held in the city of Vancouver between November 2008 and November 2009. On February 6, 2009, World Wrestling Entertainment held an event at the Agrodome that had over 4000 people in attendance. In addition, the VAC made changes to the rules and fee structures for professional wrestling events. There are now different requirements for professional wrestling events with fewer than 500 people in attendance and those with over 500 in attendance. The new regulations enabled and made it feasible for Extreme Canadian Championship Wrestling to put on monthly shows at the Russian Community Centre.

The VAC has noted concerns about unsanctioned shows from taking place in Vancouver. The VAC will continue to monitor the situation and work with the Vancouver Police Dept's Emergency & Operational Planning Section by way of the VAC's VPD liaison.

The VAC also reviewed research conducted by Licensing staff looking at the best practice framework based on standards in North America and rules that Vancouver would put in place for Mixed Martial Arts should these events fall within the VAC mandate.

The VAC reviewed its Suspension and Appeal process and updated the Promoter's package for boxing, which is now available on the VAC website.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The VAC has received a number of promoter inquiries regarding the prospect of holding Mixed Martial Arts events in Vancouver. The VAC awaits Vancouver City Council's decision on the ability for the VAC to sanction these events.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.

We would also like to recognize the outstanding service of Judge George Angelomatis, who resigned from the VAC in June 2009. The City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Athletic Commission were fortunate to have the services of such a dedicated individual who volunteered countless hours of his time.

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