

**#72933**  
**DRAFT**

**SEA SPORTS COMMISSION BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 1, 2022**  
**at 10:30 a.m.**

**ONLINE:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85622784838>; **Enter Meeting ID:** 856 2278 4838

**PHONE:** +1 (646) 558-8656; **Enter Meeting ID:** 856 2278 4838 **followed by #**

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call of Sports Commission Board Members
- III. Public Participation
- IV. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of June 9, 2022
- V. New Business

**Sports Event Funding (SEF) Program**

- A. Recommendation of a SEF program grant to Pittsburgh Squash Racquets Association (a.k.a. Pittsburgh Squash) for a professional/ amateur squash tournament to be held Wednesday February 8 through Sunday, February 12, 2023 at The Rivers Club.
- B. Recommendation of a SEF program grant to the Western PA Bruins for a girls basketball competition to be held from April 14 – April 16, 2023 at the David L Lawrence Convention Center.
- C. Recommendation of a SEF program grant to Robert Morris University for a three day (five game) intercollegiate post season men’s lacrosse tournament to be held at Robert Morris University (Joe Walton Stadium) May 1- May 7, 2023.
- D. Recommendation of a SEF program grant to USA Weightlifting, Inc. for Weightlifting’s 2024 National Championships Week to be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, June 15 – 23, 2024.
- E. Recommendation of a SEF program grant to Pittsburgh I.C.E. for a youth hockey tournament to be held at Hunt Armory as part of the Willie O’Ree Skills Weekend to be held January 19 – 23, 2023.
- F. Recommendation of a SEF program grant to Sevens Entertainment, LLC (d/b/a Premier Rugby Sevens) for a Rugby 7s tournament to be held at

Highmark Stadium on a Saturday in June or July 2023, together with training during the five days prior at locations in Allegheny County.

- G. Recommendation of a SEF program grant to Hoop Group Elite for boys basketball competition to be held from April 21-23, 2023 at the David L Lawrence Convention Center.
  - H. Recommendation of a SEF program grant to Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC, LLC for Riverhounds SC Three Rivers College Showcase (girls), Three Rivers College Showcase (boys), Holiday Classic and Riverhounds Development Academy (RDA) Spring Invitational soccer tournaments to be held at the Highmark Stadium (Pittsburgh), Montour Junction Sports Complex (Coraopolis) or other Allegheny County venues, during December 2022 and March 2023.
  - I. Recommendation of a SEF program grant to Carnegie Science Center for an E-Sports tournament event to be held at the Science Center during a weekend in the fall of 2023.
  - J. Recommendation of a SEF program grant to GK Sports for a boys and girls volleyball competition to be held from February 2 -5, 2023 at the David L Lawrence Convention Center.
  - K. Recommendation of a SEF program grant to Rise High Elite Basketball, Inc. for Nothing but Net Classic to be held at the All-American Sports Arena or in Allegheny County school gymnasiums, March 24-26, 2023.
- VI. Public Participation
- VII. Adjournment

## **A. Pittsburgh Squash Rackets Association (The Pittsburgh Open)**

**Summary:** Recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of **\$18,500** to Pittsburgh Squash Racquets Association (a.k.a. Pittsburgh Squash) for a professional/ amateur squash tournament to be held Wednesday February 8 through Sunday, February 12, 2023 at The Rivers Club.

**Resolution:** RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board that a **\$18,500** SEF grant be provided to Pittsburgh Squash Racquets Association for a professional/ amateur squash tournament to be held February 8-12, 2023 at the Rivers Club, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

### **Executive Summary:**

Pittsburgh Squash is a non-profit that was formed in 1988 to support and expand the sport of squash in and around the City of Pittsburgh.

The applicant describes the event (referred to as “The Pittsburgh Open”) as follows:

Part 1- The professional tournament hosts 24 players from around the world. 200 fans attend over a four-day period to watch practices and match play.

Part 2- The amateur tournament hosts 100+ players of all genders, ages, and abilities from Western PA, surrounding states, and Canada.

Part 3- The event includes one day when urban students from underserved communities (from Steel City Squash) get a chance to practice with professional players.

The tournament takes place at the Rivers Club, Oxford Center, Pittsburgh. The Rivers Club can accommodate 100 spectators at a time. The four squash courts in the gymnasium sit directly opposite a basketball court. At the main squash court, bleachers are set up in the space between the squash court and the basketball court. Attendees sit in those seats or stand to the side / behind to watch the match. For the other three squash courts, attendees stand in the open space behind the court to view.

The tournament is sanctioned by the Professional Squash Association (PSA) (the governing body for the men's and women's international professional squash circuit).

PSA tournaments are segmented into four categories: Platinum (\$180K - \$300K purse), Gold (\$110K - \$120K purse), Silver (\$71K - \$85K purse) and Bronze (\$50K - \$55K purse).

Applicant plans to grow the event from the Bronze level to Silver level. Silver level tournaments draw higher ranked professionals, expect to result in increased interest from the international fan base via traditional and social media outlets.

The event could increase local public awareness of the sport, which can lead to growth in the event. Because the event is sanctioned by PSA, the event could attract international attention to PGH.

The event will take place Wednesday, February 8- Sunday, February 12, 2023, at the Rivers Club. The event budget is \$139,150. The application requests \$37,450. Funding at the level of **\$18,500** is recommended for use as follows:

Registration with Professional Squash Association	\$5,000	Production cost
Steel City Squash - Urban Youth Educational	\$3,000	Production cost
Marketing / PR	\$3,500	Marketing
Breakfasts and Lunches for Amateur Players	\$2,000	Meals on the days of the event
Supplies	\$1,500	Production cost
Signage	\$1,000	Promotional materials
Venue Rental	\$800	Venue rental
Professional Referee Fees	\$800	Fees for officiants
Professional Master of Ceremonies Fees	\$800	Fees for officiants
Processing Fee for Amateur Registration/Payment to PSA	\$250	Production cost
	<b>\$18,650</b>	

It is projected that the event will generate approximately 188 room nights.

The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include the potential for the event to grow/expand with increased exposure to an international fan base.

## **B. Western PA Bruins (Western PA Bruins Spring Tip-Off)**

**Summary:** Recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to the Western PA Bruins for a girls basketball competition to be held from April 14 – April 16, 2023 at the David L Lawrence Convention Center.

### **Resolution:**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board that a \$75,000 SEF grant be provided to the Western PA Bruins in support of a girls basketball competition to be held from April 14 – April 16, 2023, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

### **Executive Summary:**

The Western Pennsylvania Bruins is a non-profit, was formed in 1987 and is a highly competitive and nationally recognized girls (grades 4-11) basketball organization.

This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the event. It moved to the Convention Center in 2021. It has grown from 35 teams in 2013 to 285 in 2022.

The SEF funding would allow organization to add additional courts and take more teams. In addition, in future years the event could expand to Halls D and E in the Convention Center. [Application reports that the 285 teams (using 28 courts) in 2022 could increase to 350+ if Halls D and E were added.]

The SportsPITTSBURGH support letter represents that SEF funding “is key to the continued success of this event.”

In addition to SportsPITTSBURGH, support letters were provided by University of Pittsburgh Women’s Basketball, Duquesne Univ Women’s Basketball.

Applicant represents that any excess funds from the tournament go toward scholarships for players that would not otherwise be able to participate in Bruins teams / training programs etc. Applicant reports that in 2022 there were 27 scholarships provided.

Attendance is projected to be 8,000. SportsPITTSBURGH estimates direct spending for the 2023 event of \$3.5M. Convention center records show that the 2021 event had attendance of 7,980 and used 990 room night, with direct spending of \$3M.

The event will take place April 14-16, 2023, at the Convention Center. The event budget is \$206,748. SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000 is requested.

The existing agreement with the Convention Center provides for discounted rent. The amount of the discount is \$26,991<sup>1</sup>. It is recommended that if the grant of \$75,000 is approved, the agreement be amended to reduce the discount by half (to \$13,495).

It is recommended that the use of the grant funds be for rent, other venue billed expenses, equipment purchase or rental.

The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include

- (1) the economic impact
- (2) this will help to continue a growing event
- (3) the event occurs in a hard to fill time in the tourism calendar (Easter week)
- (4) SportsPITTSBURGH suggests that “this event strengthens our standing within the landscape of girl’s and women’s sports which is increasing in importance as Pgh looks to bid on and host highly visible women and girls-focused events.”

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<sup>1</sup> Total rent of \$56,232 less \$26,991 discount = \$29,241 rent charge. With \$75,000 SEF grant, this to be revised to total rent of \$56,232 less \$13,495 = \$42,737 rent charge. [Note, in addition to rent, the event pays for food and beverage service and ancillary services such as labor, audio visual etc.]

### **C. Robert Morris University (2023 ASUN Conference Men's Lacrosse Championship)**

**Summary:** Recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$15,000 to Robert Morris University for a three day (five game) intercollegiate post season men's lacrosse tournament to be held at Robert Morris University (Joe Walton Stadium) May 1- May 7, 2023.

#### **Resolution:**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board that a \$15,000 SEF grant be provided to Robert Morris University in support of the three day (five game) intercollegiate post season men's lacrosse tournament to be held at Robert Morris University (Joe Walton Stadium) May 1- May 7, 2023, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

#### **Executive Summary:**

Three-day (five game) intercollegiate post season tournament. It is a qualifier for 16-team NCAA Division 1 tournament.

Sanctioned by the Atlantic Sun (ASUN) Conference, under the auspices of the National College Athletic Association.

The event/ conference is new to the Pittsburgh region. This will be the first year the tournament will be held on one of the member schools' campuses. Applicant states that while competition will be high for future hosting rights (given that school will save travel costs), the 2023 event could serve as springboard for future hosting opportunities.

ASUN conference has 10 teams, 6 will be in tournament. The ASUN schools are Pittsburgh (RMU), Detroit (Detroit Mercy), Cleveland (Cleveland State), Louisville (Bellarmine), Atlanta (Mercer), Jacksonville (Jacksonville), Salt Lake City (Utah), Colorado Spring (Air Force), St. Louis (Lindenwood), and Charlotte (Queens).

The event will take place at Robert Morris' Joe Walton Stadium, May 1, 2023 (first practice day) through May 7, 2023 (final game). Total attendance is estimated at 1,325. SportsPITTSBURGH projects hotel room nights of 1,086 and direct spending of \$668,202.

The budget for the event is \$44,927. A \$15,000 SEF grant is requested. Recommend that the uses be venue rental, EMT and other qualifying costs.

The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include

- (1) the economic impact,
- (2) the event could strengthen our standing within the sport of lacrosse and provide additional experience and visibility in with the NCAA.

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#### **D. USA Weightlifting, Inc (2024 National Championship Week)**

**Summary:** Recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to USA Weightlifting, Inc. for Weightlifting's 2024 National Championships Week to be held at the David I. Lawrence Convention Center, June 15 – 23, 2024.

#### **Resolution:**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board that a \$75,000 SEF grant be provided to USA Weightlifting, Inc. for Weightlifting's 2024 National Championships Week to be held at the David I. Lawrence Convention Center, June 15 – 23, 2024, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

#### **Executive Summary:**

USA Weightlifting is a non-profit and national governing body for weightlifting. It has hosted national championships since the 70s and hosts multiple events a year.

The National Championships Week will host Youth (17 and under) Athletes in the first 3 days, then Junior and Under 25 athletes in the next 3 days and finally Senior athletes in the last three days of competition.

This event, in this format, was held/ will be held three times -

- 2021 - Detroit, MI - 1,400 participants
- 2022 - Las Vegas, NV - 1,700 participants
- 2023 - Colorado Springs, CO - TBD

SportsPITTSBURGH plans to submit an official bid for the event by the end of 2022. SportsPITTSBURGH believes, after speaking with the event director, that the SEF grant award would be a critical component of the community's bid package.

1,200 athletes, 400 coaches and 200 volunteers are expected for this event, generating an estimated 1,500 hotel room nights and providing direct spending of \$1.5M.

If Pittsburgh wins the bid, the 2024 event would be held at the David I. Lawrence Convention Center, June 15 – 23, 2024.

The budget for the event is \$257,288.50. The SEF grant of \$75,000 is recommended, to be used for venue rental and venue operation costs.

The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include

- (1) the economic impact,
- (2) the high level of competition is expected to have a national draw,
- (3) it would use the convention center,
- (4) it would be a new event for the region.

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## **E. Pittsburgh I.C.E. (Willie O’Ree Skills Weekend)**

**Summary:** Recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of **\$10,000** to Pittsburgh I.C.E. for a youth hockey tournament to be held at Hunt Armory as part of the Willie O’Ree Skills Weekend to be held January 19 – 23, 2023.

### **Resolution:**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board that a **\$10,000** SEF grant be provided to Pittsburgh I.C.E. for a youth hockey tournament to be held at Hunt Armory as part of the Willie O’Ree Skills Weekend to be held January 19 – 23, 2023, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

### **Executive Summary:**

Pittsburgh I.C.E. (Inclusion Creates Equality) is a NHL “Hockey for Everyone” program. It currently has 87 participants (54 from City of PGH/ Pgh Public Schools, 25 from other parts of Allegheny County, 5- Beaver County, 2- Butler County, 1- Follensbee WV).

There are currently 32 "Hockey is for Everyone" programs across North America committed to offering disadvantaged youth an opportunity to play hockey, leveraging the sport to build character, foster positive values, and develop essential life skills.

The Willie O’Ree Skills Weekend event was founded by Willie O’Ree, who was the first black player to play in the NHL when he made his debut for the Bruins on January 18, 1958. Since 1996, the event has brought together boys and girls from diverse backgrounds to participate in on-ice and off-ice lessons designed to build confidence and teach life skills.

The "Hockey is for Everyone" programs send players to participate in the WOR weekend, along with coaches, staff & chaperones. The first day consists of a welcome skate followed by a banquet. Mr. O’Ree will address the players and share the values hockey teaches: teamwork, dedication, and perseverance.

The second day will consist of attending an NHL game where the Pittsburgh Penguins will face-off against the Winnipeg Jets. Willie O’Ree typically drops the ceremonial puck drop before the game. Day 2 includes skills session with NHL skating coaches. The "Hockey is for Everyone" youth hockey players play several competitions throughout the weekend.

On the third day, the 18 teams will play in a round-robin 3-on-3 tournament at the Hunt Armory. Each team will play three games, followed by a playoff round. During the day, the kids will hear from a range of speakers from USA Hockey, the NHL, the Pittsburgh Penguins, Robert Morris University hockey staff, and others. The guest speakers will focus on the importance of diversity, tolerance, and education, reinforcing that hockey is for everyone and opens doors to many opportunities.

Event attendees, including all participants and staff, reside more than 100 miles outside of Allegheny County. The Hockey is for Everyone (HIFE) teams that attend this event are located throughout North America in cities with an NHL team affiliate. On average, 8 participants and staff per each HIFE organization attend the WOR Skills Weekend event. With 26 HIFE organizations, applicant estimates 208 participants and staff from outside of Western Pennsylvania will participate.

The NHL Willie O'Ree Skills Weekend to date has never been held in Pittsburgh. Hosting a successful event will provide an opportunity to also host the WOR Skills Weekends in 2024. {NHL has allowed the WOR skills weekend to be in the same city 2 years in a row.}

The event budget is \$41,000. The NHL has committed \$10,000 for travel and hotels. The Pittsburgh Penguins have committed \$12,500 for Transportation and Tickets to penguin game. SEF grant in the amount of [\$10,000] is recommended for the following uses related to the tournament portion of the event- [Hunt Armory ice time; Jersey and T Shirts for participants; meals for athletes] and with the understanding that a match of the same amount will be received for the event from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation.

The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include

- (1) It is a new event, with participation from around the country and Canada
- (2) the event would provide a high value exposure to the region

## **F. Premier Rugby Sevens (Premier Rugby Sevens Pittsburgh Tour Stop)**

**Summary:** Recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$70,000 to Sevens Entertainment, LLC (d/b/a Premier Rugby Sevens) for a Rugby 7s tournament to be held at Highmark Stadium on a Saturday in June or July 2023, together with training during the five days prior at locations in Allegheny County.

### **Resolution:**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board that a \$70,000 SEF grant be provided to Sevens Entertainment, LLC (d/b/a Premier Rugby Sevens) for Rugby 7s tournament to be held at Highmark Stadium on a Saturday in June or July 2023, together with training during the five days prior at locations in Allegheny County, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

### **Executive Summary:**

Premier Rugby Sevens (for profit) requests funding to support its Pittsburgh tournament tour stop of 6 professional men's and 4 professional women's rugby 7s teams.

The tournament day will be a Saturday in July 2023. The day will consist of seven tournaments. Each team will play 3-4 matches in the day. A new match will start every 25 minutes. Matches are made up of 7-minute halves.

The Saturday tournament will be held at Highmark Stadium. The 5 days prior to the Saturday competition day will be training days. There will be two training locations within Allegheny County. During the training days there will be community engagement activities such as local clinics and integration with youth organizations. The budget for the event is \$579,250. SEF grant of \$70,000 is requested.

Rugby 7s is a short form of the game of rugby. It is the format showcased in the Olympic games. The game is sanctioned by USA Rugby, the national governing body for rugby in the US. USA Rugby has been awarded the Men's World Cup in 2031 and the Women's World Cup in 2033 and Pittsburgh is one of 30 cities vying to be a host city.

In 2021, PR7s held its only event in Memphis, TN. In 2022 had events in San Jose (7/9), Washington DC (7/16), and Austin (7/30).

It is expected that Pittsburgh would be one stop in a planned 4-6 event 2023 tournament season for Premier Rugby Sevens.

It is anticipated that Pittsburgh could be part of an annual tour. The applicant plans by 2027 to grow the event from 1 tournament day to 2, with 12 men's and 12 women's teams playing.

The 2023 PR7s event in Pittsburgh will be a new event for the city. This will be the first time professional rugby will be showcased in W PA.

Attendance for the event is estimated at 5,640 (140 athletes and staff and 5,500 spectators). SportsPITTSBURGH projects direct spending of \$2M and 3,981 room nights.

SEF grant funds will be used for the rental and operational costs of Highmark Stadium as well as needed venue build out (e.g., locker rooms) and/ or the rental/ costs of the training facilities (also to be located in Allegheny County).

The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include

- (1) the economic impact,
- (2) considering the national/ international fan base for Rugby 7s, the event has the potential of creating positive national/ international media exposure for the region,
- (3) there is an opportunity that this event could become an annual event for Pittsburgh and could grow from one tournament day to 2,
- (4) the event could increase Pittsburgh's chances of being a location for the Men's World Cup in 2031 and the Women's World Cup in 2033, and
- (5) the community engagement activities such as local clinics and integration with youth organizations could have legacy impact for the sport in the region.

## **G. HOOP Group Elite (Pittsburgh Jam Fest)**

**Summary:** Recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Hoop Group Elite for boys basketball competition to be held from April 21-23, 2023 at the David L Lawrence Convention Center.

### **Resolution:**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board that a \$75,000 SEF grant be provided to Hoop Group Elite for a boys basketball competition to be held from April 21-23, 2023, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

### **Executive Summary:**

Hoop Group Elite is a for profit organization that has been in existence for 60 years. It has been operating Pittsburgh Jam Fest for 22 years. It is a youth basketball tournament for boys ages 14-18. The event includes a free Thursday night clinic for middle school students (both boys and girls) from Pgh Public Schools. Long term they would like to expand in size (with additional teams and courts), expand the Thursday night clinic, add younger age groups, add a girls event.

Applicant projects attendance for 2023 at 14,800 (1,500 [local], 1,500 [day trip], 11,000 [overnight]). SportsPITTSBURGH estimates in excess of 3,513 hotel rooms and direct spending for the 2023 event of \$10.3M. Convention Center records show that the 2021 event had attendance of 6,776, with 2,327 room nights and \$2.8M direct spending. There was no event in 2020 due to COVID. The Convention Center records show that the 2019 event had attendance of 18,020 with room nights of 3,500 and \$6.2M direct spending.

The event will take place April 21-23, 2023 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The event budget is \$415,000. SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000 is requested.

The Convention Center reports that this is a good event for the building and for the downtown hotels. The Convention Center also reports that other destinations have shown interest in luring the event away from Pgh (e.g. Columbus or other similar locations).

The existing agreement with the Convention Center provides for discounted rent. The amount of the discount is \$86,307<sup>2</sup>. It is recommended that if the grant of \$75,000 is approved, the agreement be amended to reduce the discount by \$25,000 (to \$61,307).

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<sup>2</sup> Total rent of \$115,087 less \$86,307 discount = \$28,780 rent charge. With \$75,000 SEF grant, this to be revised to total rent of \$115,087 less \$61,307 = \$53,780 rent charge. [Note, in addition to rent, the event pays for food and beverage service and ancillary services such as labor, audio visual etc.]

It is recommended that the use of the grant funds be for rent, other venue billed expenses, equipment purchase or rental.

The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include

- (1) the economic impact,
- (2) this will help to retain and continue a major event that has growth potential

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**H. [Riverhounds]**

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## **I. Carnegie Science Center (Pittsburgh E-Sports Open)**

**Summary:** Recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$47,500 to Carnegie Science Center for an E-Sports tournament event to be held at the Science Center during a weekend in the fall of 2023.

### **Resolution:**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board that a \$47,500 SEF grant be provided to Carnegie Science Center for an E-Sports tournament event to be held during a weekend in the fall of 2023, at the Carnegie Science Center, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

### **Executive Summary:**

This is a new event with the potential to be annual. There are E-sports tournaments held in this region but none of the size and scope planned for this event.

Carnegie Science Center is the sole organizer but is working with the Pittsburgh Knights (local professional Esports team) and Mega Cat Studios (local company that creates games). Carnegie Science Center (CSC) is one of the four museums of Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

The Science Center intends to create an advisory group of regional schools and colleges with active E-Sports teams or E-Sports programs.

The event will include open tournaments, pro-am tournaments, high school and college tournaments, game developer panels hosted by Mega Cat Studios and other speakers and presentations. The Science Center intends to provide high quality content that engages video game enthusiasts, E-Sports players, and people interested in careers connected to video games and E-Sports.

The event is being planned for a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in 2023 between Oct 1st and Nov 20th. The event will take place in its initial year at the Carnegie Science Center. It is hoped that the event will outgrow that venue and in future years possibly be at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Applicant projects 2023 attendance of 3,000.

The event budget is \$95,000. SEF grant in the amount of \$[47,500] is recommended, to be used for the following and other qualifying costs provided for in the grant agreement.

Budget Line Items	SEF Funding
Venue	\$18,000.00
Equipment (monitors/consoles/controllers)	\$10,000.00
Marketing	\$10,000.00
Tournament management (Pittsburgh Knights)	\$10,000.00
Game licenses	\$5,000.00
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Total	\$53,000.00

The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include

- (3) It is a new event, with potential for growth, organized by a party with related expertise
- (4) the event would provide a high value exposure to the region

## **J. GK Sports, LLC (Steel City Freeze)**

**Summary:** Recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to GK Sports for a boys and girls volleyball competition to be held from February 2 -5, 2023 at the David L Lawrence Convention Center.

### **Resolution:**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board that a \$75,000 SEF grant be provided to GK Sports for a boys and girls volleyball competition to be held from February 2 -5, 2023 at the David L Lawrence Convention Center, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

### **Executive Summary:**

GK Sports, LLC (for-profit organization) formed in 2017. The event (referred to as Steel City Freeze) is a one weekend volleyball tournament (February 2 – 5, 2023) for clubs (teams) ages 10-18, both boys and girls.

GK Sports first held the event in 2017, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. 56 teams competed on 16 courts. It has been held every year since, except for 2021 (due to Covid). In 2022, 353 teams competed on 48 courts (using Halls A-E at the Convention Center). The Convention Center could accommodate an additional 31 courts (384 teams, total).

Convention Center records show

2019 event had 5,000 attendance, 1,982 room nights, \$1.9M direct spend

2020 event had 4,800 attendance, 2,446 room nights, \$1.5M direct spend

2021- no event due to COVID

2022- data not yet available, but applicant reports room nights of 3,197

Applicant estimates 2023 attendance at 11,900 (Local Attendees – 500, Day Trip - 5,000, Overnight Stay - 6,400). Sports PITTSBURGH estimates direct spending for the 2023 event of \$2.85M and estimates Local direct taxes of \$81,693 (Sales= \$25,476, Income= \$4,120, Lodging= \$48,822, Other= \$3,276) and Property taxes of \$41,487.

SportsPITTSBURGH is providing \$7,500 in financial assistance to the 2023 event.

The 2023 event budget is \$198,660. SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000 is requested.

The Convention Center reports that this is a good event for the building and for the downtown hotels, explaining that early February is a “need time” for the Convention Center and downtown hotels.

The existing agreement with the Convention Center provides for discounted rent. The amount of the discount is \$40,964.50<sup>3</sup>. It is recommended that if the grant of \$75,000 is approved, the agreement be amended to reduce the discount by \$20,000 (to \$20,964.50).

It is recommended that the use of the grant funds be for rent and other venue billed operation expenses.

The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include

- (1) the economic impact,
- (2) the event occurs in a hard to fill period in the tourism calendar,
- (3) this will help to retain and continue a major event that has growth potential

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<sup>3</sup> Total rent of \$71,929.00 less \$40,964.50 discount = \$30,964.50 rent charge. With \$75,000 SEF grant, this to be revised to total rent of \$71,929.00 less \$20,964.50 = \$50,964.50 rent charge. [Note, in addition to rent, the event pays for food and beverage service and ancillary services such as labor, audio visual etc.]