

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF THE
SPORTS & EXHIBITION AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH
AND ALLEGHENY COUNTY
SPORTS COMMISSION
HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
REMOTELY VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
COMMENCING AT 11:01 AM. E.S.T.

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Sports Commission (the “Sports Commission”) was held upon proper notice on the online conferencing platform Zoom on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, commencing at 11:01 A.M. E.S.T.

Members of the Commission present:

Sen. Jay Costa, Chairman
Sen. Wayne Fontana, Member
Tracey McCants-Lewis, Member
Michael Quatrini, Member

Also Present:

Aaron Waller, Bridget Pascal, Doug Straley, Rodney Pratt, Paul McDonald Jr., Theresa King, Desmond Bentley, Randall Porch, Jhason Dixon, Jeff Garstka, and Alicia Matos of the SEA; Morgan Hanson, Solicitor; and Mark Belko, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Senator Jay Costa called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Morgan Hanson followed with a roll call of the board members and advised that a quorum was present.

Beginning with public participation, Senator Costa asked if any members of the audience would like to address the board. Members of the public were offered participation by email, telephone, or the Zoom chat function. Mr. Paul McDonald Jr. stated the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (“SEA”) had not received any comments via email, no one registered to speak via telephone, and no comments were submitted via the Zoom chat

function thus far. Seeing no request from the public to address the board, Senator Costa moved to the next item on the agenda, approval of the minutes from the meeting on Friday, March 31, 2023. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Before moving onto the next agenda item, Senator Costa asked Mr. Hanson if the board could have one vote, at the end, or if each agenda items needs to be individually voted on.

Mr. Hanson stated if the board is in favor of all events, then one vote in the end is sufficient; however, if any board member suggests an individual vote is needed because there may be a disagreement then there should be an individual vote.

Mr. Michael Quatrini asked if this would include abstentions.

Mr. Hanson stated the board member should note the abstention, for the item on record, before the vote.

Senator Costa made a motion the votes should be casted with one final vote at the end, pending a board member wanted to abstain or votes no on the agenda item. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried. Senator Costa asked Ms. Theresa King to describe each of the awardees.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a Sports Event Funding Program (“SEF”) grant in the amount of \$30,000 to It’s About the Warrior Foundation (“IAWF”) for a veteran’s hockey tournament to be held Friday, May 17, 2024, through Sunday, May 19, 2024, at the Robert Morris University Island Sports Center (“RMU”).

IAWF is a non-profit organization founded in 2013 to assist and empower post-9/11 veterans and their families. IAWF is requesting funds for their Heroes Cup Hockey Tournament. This hockey tournament is a three-day event that will attract 24 veteran/first responder hockey teams from across the United States.

This event will take place Friday, May 17, 2024, through Sunday, May 19, 2024, at the RMU and the event budget is \$76,000. IAWF states the event has potential to expand the number of participating teams from 24 to 40 and this grant will help offset the ice rental fees.

The total attendance projected is 1,060 attendees with 302 hotel room nights and SportsPittsburgh (“SP”) estimates direct spending of \$497,961. An SEF grant of \$30,000 is to be used for referee and venue/ice rental fees. This grant is recommended for the economic impact, the event is new to the region, and has growth potential.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$30,000 to Break The Chains Wrestling (“BTC”) for two amateur youth wrestling tournaments, Battle in the Burgh (“BITB”) to be held Saturday, September 2, 2023, and West Penn Duals (“WPD”) to be held Saturday, November 11, 2023, through Sunday, November 12, 2023, at the Monroeville Convention and Events Center (“MCEC”).

BTC is a for-profit organization founded in 2020 to provide an outlet for youth wrestling. Both tournaments have male and female participants ages 5 to 18. The budget for these events is \$112,200. The total attendance for these tournaments is 3,270 attendees with a total of 500 hotel room nights, and SP estimates direct spending of \$612,294. An SEF grant of \$30,000 is to be used for venue, referees, and mat rental costs. The grant is recommended for the economic impact, and this grant will help grow the event by allowing the organization to afford a larger venue and additional wrestling mats.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Maccabi USA (“Maccabi”) for the Maccabi USA National Team Selection (“NTS”) to be held Thursday, July 11, 2024 through Sunday, July 14, 2024, at various locations in Allegheny County

Maccabi is a non-profit organization formed in 1948 to build Jewish pride through sports and promote support for Israel and Jewish continuity. Maccabi is requesting funding to support the NTS tryout event determining who represents the United States at the 22nd Maccabiah in Israel in the Summer of 2025.

This NTS event will be the official tryout for eight different sports for men and women, segmented into three different age groups ranging from 14 to 30+, including baseball, basketball, soccer, futsal, softball, volleyball, field hockey, and tennis. The budget for the event is \$400,000.

The total attendance projected for the event is 2,082 with 4,500 hotel room nights. SP estimates direct spending of \$2,598,780. An SEF grant of \$75,000 is to be used for facility rentals, medical, and security costs. The grant is recommended for the economic impact, a large incentive to make Pittsburgh the host city, and would keep the event affordable for its participants.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Quatrini asked if the tryouts were already happening in Western Pennsylvania or is Maccabi waiting to be picked to host these tryouts.

Ms. King stated Maccabi hasn’t secured the venue, but the SEF grant will be a large incentive in doing so.

Senator Costa asked if the events do not occur the organization would not be awarded the proceeds.

Mr. Hanson confirmed that is correct.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$50,000 to Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon Inc. (“P3R”) for the DICK’s Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon to be held Friday, May 3, 2024, through Sunday, May 5, 2024, on the streets of Pittsburgh. The Fitness Expo will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center (“DLCC”).

P3R is a non-profit organization founded in 2008 to run a variety of high-quality races of various distances, as well as events and award-winning health and fitness programs throughout Western Pennsylvania. P3R is requesting funding to support its DICK’S Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon and Pittsburgh Health and Fitness Expo (“PMFE”).

The Pittsburgh Marathon offers runners and walkers of all ages and ability levels the opportunity to participate in a marathon, half-marathon, marathon relay, 5k, one-mile kids race, toddler trot, and pet walk.

The budget for the event is \$4,957,000, the total attendance projected is 336,388 attendees with a total of 9,320 hotel room nights, and SP estimates direct spending of \$11,306,882. The grant of \$50,000 is being used for police, EMS, and public works. The grant is being recommended for the following reasons: the economic impact and it’s an international event.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$45,000 to Isshinryu Karate Academy of Pittsburgh, Inc. (“IKAP”) for a four-day karate competition to be held Thursday, August 1, 2024 through Sunday, August 4, 2024, at the Wyndham Grand in Downtown Pittsburgh (“WG”).

IKAP is a non-profit organization formed in 1998 to teach and preserve a form of martial arts called Isshinryu Karate. IKAP is requesting funding to support the IWKA World Karate Championships 2024, a four (4) day international karate competition. This world championship event occurs every 2 to 3 years and is hosted in different cities throughout the U.S. and the world. Pittsburgh has hosted this event three times before in 1985, 1992, and 2009.

The budget for this event is \$108,000, The total attendance projected is 549 attendees with 600 hotel room nights, and SP estimates a direct spending of \$365,383. An SEF grant is being used for the venue, officials, medical staff, and insurance fees. This grant is being recommended for the economic impact and it's an international event.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Premier Rugby Sevens ("PR7") for a one-day rugby competition to be held Sunday, July 21, 2024, at Highmark Stadium.

PR7 is a for-profit organization formed in 2021 to promote a professional level of rugby sevens in the United States. PR7s is requesting funding to support its eastern conference. PR7 received a \$70,000 SEF grant during the second round of the 2022 funding cycle. This grant was allocated to cover the rental and operational expenses of Highmark Stadium, along with necessary venue enhancements and/or training facility costs. The event occurred in July 2023, and as of now, a final report has not been submitted due to invoice issues with Highmark Stadium.

The 2024 event is scheduled for Sunday, July 21, 2024, and will take place at Highmark Stadium. This event will consist of eight games, with participation from four franchises, each comprising women's and men's teams with teams arriving five days prior for a training session.

The event budget is \$579,250, the total attendance projected is 5,180 attendees with 950 hotel room nights, and SP estimates direct spending of \$940,706. The SEF grant of \$75,000 is contingent upon the receipt of the 2023 final report. This grant is to be used for stadium labor, field painting & removal, tents, bike rack rentals, stadium rent, training field rent, and marketing. The grant is recommended for the economic impact, international player participation, community engagement activities, local clinics, and youth organization support. And this experience could position Pittsburgh as potential host city for world cup submissions to the respective 2031 men and 2033 women events.

Senator Costa asked if this item is contingent until PR7 provides the appropriate compliance report for last year's grant.

Ms. King confirmed that is correct.

Senator Costa asked if PR7 believes they will enhance the experience from last year's event.

Ms. King stated PR7 believes this event can grow with more spectator attendance.

Senator Costa asked regarding the teams arriving five days before the event, does the SEA have any information if the teams completed any community engagement activities.

Ms. King stated the Authority is waiting on the final report about youth participation; however, there was positive press regarding this event.

Senator Costa asked Mr. Hanson if this agenda should be pulled and voted on individually, since this grant recommendation is on a conditional basis.

Mr. Hanson asked if the board is imposing additional conditions beyond what's required under the guidelines, or will the grant not be funded unless PR7 complies with prior guidelines already in place.

Senator Costa stated it's the latter. Senator Costa further stated the organization(s) are required to provide compliance reports and until these reports are provided, the board will approve it with the conditions the reports are provided, and if the reports aren't provided then the organization doesn't get awarded the grant.

Mr. Hanson stated a separate vote isn't needed because the reports are established by the guidelines. Mr. Hanson further stated there is nothing wrong with severing this agenda item and having a separate vote if this is the will of the board.

Senator Fontana stated the organization already knows these reports need to be submitted.

Mr. Quatrini stated the organization must file the 2022 report to receive the 2022 grant money, but the board is also saying if you don't file the 2022 report, you're not going to get the 2022 money, and you're also not going to get 2023 consideration as well. This is an additional requirement with complying on the 2022 report.

Mr. Hanson stated failure to comply with the guidelines can bar the organization from future considerations, and Mr. Hanson proposed pulling out this agenda item.

Senator Costa made a motion to remove this agenda item and vote separately on the 2023 grant with the condition of providing the appropriate compliance reports for the 2022 award.

Mr. Hanson restated as compliance with all pro SEF program guidelines in place for the 2022 approval.

Senator Costa stated he preferred how Mr. Hanson presented it.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

RESOLUTION NO. SC029

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Premier Rugby Sevens for a one-day rugby competition to be held Sunday, July 21, 2024 at the Highmark Stadium, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided, under the condition with all pro SEF Program Guidelines in place for the 2022 approval 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.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of an SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Western PA Bruins (“WPB”) for a weekend basketball tournament to be held Friday, April 12, 2024, through Sunday, April 14, 2024, at the DLCC.

WPB is a non-profit organization formed in 1987 as a highly competitive and nationally recognized girls (ages 10 to 18) basketball organization. This is the tenth year the WPB is hosting the WPB Spring Tip-Off and the WPB is requesting funding to support this basketball tournament. WPB was previously awarded a \$75,000 SEF grant in 2022 Round 2 for DLCC facility expenses. WPB’s final report indicated the event did meet its attendance and direct spending goal with a total of 9,650 attendees and \$4,660,00 in direct spending.

The event budget is \$206,748, and total attendance projected at 9,650 attendees with 2,386 hotel room nights, and SP estimates direct spending of \$4,803,076. An SEF grant is being used for DLCC Venue rental and operating costs. If this grant is approved, the DLCC agreement will be

amended to increase venue costs by \$15,000. This grant is being recommended for the economic impact, event growth potential and promoting women's participation in sports.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of an SEF grant in the amount of \$10,000 to Pittsburgh Curling Club for five (5) Bonspiels ("PCC") to be held October 19, 2023, through June 9, 2024, at the PCC facility.

PCC is a non-profit organization formed in 2002 to teach, develop, promote, and encourage the sport of curling. PCC is requesting funding to support its 2023 – 2024 Bonspiels. Bonspiels are curling tournaments, with all teams guaranteed a minimum of three games. The five Bonspiels are:

1. The Three Rivers Speil - October 19 – 22, 2023,
2. The Grand National Curling Club Men's' Senior Championship - November 16-19, 2023,
3. The Pittsburgh Party Speil - January 19 – 21, 2024,
4. The Laurel Medical Wheelchair Bonspiel - date TBD, and
5. The TropiCurl - June 6-9, 2024.

The budget for the five Bonspiels is \$35,622 and the total attendance projected for the event is 636 attendees with 990 hotel room nights, and SP estimates direct spending of \$594,984. The Grant is to be used for facility utilities (Electric/ Gas/ Water/ Sewer/ Internet Services). This grant is recommended for the economic impact, it's a national event, and growth potential.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$45,000 to P3R for the EQT Pittsburgh 10-mile race to be held Saturday, November 5, 2023, on the streets of Pittsburgh. P3R is a non-profit organization founded in 2008 to run a variety of high-quality races of various distances, as well as events and award-winning health and fitness programs throughout Western Pennsylvania. P3R is requesting funding to support the EQT Pittsburgh 10 Miler.

The total attendance projected for the event is 15,843 attendees with 405 hotel room nights, and SP estimates direct spending of \$563,000. The budget for the event is \$536,000. The SEF grant is to be used for police EMS, and public works and the grant is being recommended due to the event's economic impact.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Senator Fontana asked how the SEF grant money helps the event's growth.

Ms. King stated the funds will be used for marketing expansion and hopefully bring in out of state participants.

Senator Fontana asked when the report is filed will the SEA be able to see if there was a participation increase from the previous year, because there is a good chance this organization applies again.

Ms. King confirmed that was correct.

Mr. Quatrini agreed with Senator Fontana about the organization applying for future funds. But in the next application, it should enumerate what additional participation occurred from year to year, if P3R wants to apply for future funding.

Ms. Tracey McCants-Lewis referenced the previous discussion about the Pittsburgh Marathon, stating they will also request future funds and should provide a report detailing if the SEF grant funds assisted in the reduction of security incidences during the marathon.

Senator Fontana agreed with Ms. McCants-Lewis. Senator Fontana further stated these are great events, but the SEF Funds should be helping the events grow or bringing new events to Pittsburgh.

Senator Costa asked Mr. Hanson if this agenda item required a separate vote to add the additional conditional report. Because these conditions would be meeting the goal of growing the event, and the additional security measures to decrease the number of incidents.

Mr. Hanson stated he is hesitant to add them as specific conditions, because a specific condition must be well defined. Mr. Hanson further stated in the previous instance the condition was to comply with the previous guidelines, in this case the board is asking to provide an undefined set of information that may not be required under the current SEF guidelines. Mr. Hanson recommendation is to instruct the Sports Commission Board and SEA Staff to present the questions to the applicant that the board wants answered apply again next year.

Mr. Quatrini states he is comfortable that the minutes of today's meeting will demonstrate the issues that concerned the board and will be instructive for next year if the marathon applies again.

Mr. Aaron Waller stated SEA staff will gather the information regarding participation and attendance with respect to the event. Mr. Waller further stated to the extent that the funding will be utilize for public safety cost, Authority staff will have to specifically request a report on any security incidents with a comparison to prior years.

Senator Fontana asked if the criteria should be changed.

Senator Costa stated it warrants another conversation where language can be added, because if there are entities that are applying for an event that has occurred more than once, the organization must be prepared to demonstrate how they anticipate the event is going to grow.

Mr. Hanson stated an amendment to the written guidelines covering reoccurring events, indicating that the board wants the information upfront on how the funds will continue to grow the events.

Senator Fontana stated these criteria are important to the board because the board needs to know how the event is growing with the SEF funds.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$70,000 to the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (“USCAA”) for a collegiate national soccer championship to be held Thursday, November 16, 2023, through Monday, November 20, 2023, at Montour Junction Sports complex and Highmark Stadium.

The USCAA is a non-profit organization founded in 2001 to provide an opportunity for smaller college members to compete on an equal level of competition with schools of like size and athletic programs. USCAA is requesting funding to support their Small College Soccer National Championships.

The Championship is a collegiate-level competition featuring Men’s and Women’s Division I and II soccer matches. The budget for this event is \$123,867, the total attendance projected is 1,740 attendees with 1,440 hotel room nights, and SP estimates direct spending of \$647,583. The grant is to be used for venue expenses and officials. The grant is recommended for economic impact and secure Pittsburgh as the host city.

Senator Fontana asked if this a new event.

Ms. King confirmed that is correct.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of an SEF grant in the amount of \$20,000 to Three River Rowing Association (“TRRA”) for a rowing competition on Saturday, October 7, 2023, through Sunday, October 8, 2023, at Washington’s Landing and the Allegheny River.

TRRA is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 to develop and deliver safe, sustainable, and inclusive programs teaching and promoting the sports of rowing and paddling to the diverse Pittsburgh community. TRRA is requesting funds for the Head of the Ohio Regatta (“Regatta”), a large rowing competition. The Regatta is a two-day event that attracts rowers of all ages, skill levels, and abilities.

This event is celebrating its 37th anniversary and has a event budget of \$73,425, the total attendance is projected at 4,035 attendees with 302 hotel room nights, and SP estimating direct spending of \$10,000,000. An SEF grant is to be used for safety boats, EMT/River Rescue Services, support from the PA Resource Council, and venue-related expenses (tents, chairs, & portable restrooms). The grant is recommended due to the economic impact.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Senator Fontana stated this organization wants to expand.

Senator Costa asked how long TRRA promoted this competition.

Ms. King stated 37 years.

Senator Costa stated with the previous marathon discussion, the board is going to need to know what is going to be unique with this event going forward. Senator Costa asked if SP has provided the board with estimates of the economic impact and is SP affiliated with VisitPittsburgh (“VP”).

Ms. King confirmed that is correct.

Senator Costa asked if information is shared with SP or whether the information was self-reported by the entity.

Ms. King stated some organizations work with SP and the SEA receives the information from SP. Ms. King further stated for the organization(s) not working work with SP, the SEA gathers the data from the organizations then sends it to SP.

Senator Fontana stated he understands economic impact are assumptions based on attendance, but when SP was asked on how these assumptions where reached, SP provided no information. Senator Fontana further stated there needs to be transparency with SP and questioned whether it is possible to generate these numbers in-house.

Mr. Waller stated the inputs into their model are consistent with regard to the information the SEA is provided from the applicants, or if SP is working directly with the applicants. Mr. Waller further stated the variables are the number of people traveling to the event, staying overnight, and SP sources the information directly from the applicants or obtains it from the SEA through the grant application process. The SEA is aware of the inputs; however, the SEA doesn't have the algorithm to generate these numbers and SP won't provide that since SP purchased the proprietary software.

Senator Fontana stated the SEA and Sports Commission are relying too much on SP.

Senator Costa stated there can be a discussion to figure out a way to do this in-house, purchase the software, or find another method or entity to get the same end.

Senator Fontana asked if we could price the programs on the market.

Mr. Waller stated there are multiple programs on the market.

Senator Fontana asked if the programs are expensive.

Mr. Waller stated the SEA has a couple leads on different systems but would need to compare them.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$10,000 to PA Future Stars Report (“FSR”) for a high school all-star basketball competition to be held Saturday, April 27, 2024, at North Allegheny Senior High School. FSR is a for-profit organization formed in 2018 to promote NCAA approved recruiting & scouting service, that covers girl basketball players in Central/Western Pennsylvania, Northern West Virginia, and Eastern Ohio. FSR is requesting funding to support four high school All-Star basketball games with graduating seniors from Pennsylvania competing against graduating seniors from Ohio and West Virginia.

The event will consist of 80-90 high school girl and boy basketball players committed to either Division 1, 2, or 3 colleges/universities. The budget is \$79,425, the total attendance projected is 3,615 attendees with 500 hotel room nights, and SP estimates direct spending of 253,478. The grant is to be used for venue, officials, and trainer expenses. The grant is being recommended for the economic impact and the event is a tri-state event.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000 to For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (“FIRST”) for a four-day robotics competition to be held Wednesday, February 28, 2024, through Saturday, March 2, 2024, at the DLCC.

FIRST is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 to design accessible and innovative STEM programs while motivating youth to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills. FIRST is requesting funding to support the FIRST Robotics Competition Greater Pittsburgh Regional. Students in grades 9-12 are challenged under strict rules and limited time and resources to build industrial-size robots competing in difficult field games in alliance with other teams.

The budget for the event is \$285,500 with the total attendance of 2,300 attendees with 1,500 hotel room nights, and SP estimates direct spending of \$1,578,240. The grant is to be used for venue and operating fees and recommended for the economic impact and DLCC host site selection.

Senator Fontana asked if this was a new event and has this event taken place at the DLCC.

Ms. King confirmed is a new grant applicant, but has not been at the DLCC in a number of years.

Mr. Hanson stated this event hasn't been at the DLCC in quite some time.

Senator Fontana stated he hopes this event can grow at the DLCC.

Senator Costa asked if robotics falls under the criteria of eligible applicants.

Mr. Hanson stated it's a close call, but under the guidelines the board is able to fund sports or athletic competitions. Sports are broadly defined, and it's accepted by the International Olympic Committee to include chess, bridge, and other non-physical activities are games having winners and losers and have a strict set of rules. It is represented to the board by the organization that this is a contest between high school students following a set of rules and has a winner and loser.

Mr. Hanson further stated this is no means a slam dunk within our guidelines, but a reasonable argument or interpretation of the SEF guidelines are broad enough to include this style

of competition or game. In Mr. Hanson's opinion it can be funded if the Sports Commission board decides.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000 to the National Association of Intercollegiate Gymnastic Clubs ("NAIGC") for a three-day national gymnastics competition to be held Wednesday, April 2, 2025, through Saturday, April 5, 2025 at the DLCC.

NAIGC is a non-profit organization formed in 2006 to support collegiate and adult club gymnastics in the United States. NAIGC is requesting funding to support its 2025 Nationals. The NAIGC Nationals offer men and women gymnasts two days of preliminary competition for all levels and one day of competitive finals. Competitions offered are Men's Artistic Gymnastics, Women's Artistic Gymnastics, Tumbling & Trampoline, and Unified Artistic Gymnastics.

The budget for the event is \$446,447 with the total attendance projected at 2,395 with 1,590 hotel room nights, and SP estimates direct spending of \$1,389,100. The applicant states without SEF funding the event cannot take place in Pittsburgh due to high labor costs. The SEF grant is being used for venue costs at the DLCC and is being recommended for the economic impact, selecting Pittsburgh as a host city, and it's a national event.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000 to 3Step Sports LLC ("3SS") for a weekend youth basketball tournament to be held Friday, April 19, 2024, through Sunday, April 21, 2024 at the DLCC.

3SS the parent company of Hoop Group Elite (“HG”), is a for-profit organization. Since 1963, HG has been a comprehensive basketball company dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of players, coaches, and parents by providing the best instruction, competition, and exposure. 3Step Sports LLC is requesting funding for HG’s basketball tournament, Pittsburgh Jam Fest. This will be the ninth year this takes place and is a youth basketball tournament for boys ages 14-18 and includes a free boys and girls middle school clinic for the Pittsburgh schools. HG was previously awarded a \$75,000 SEF grant in the second round of 2022 for DLCC facility rental and operational expenses. HG’s Final Report indicated the event had a total attendance of 10,840 attendees and a direct spending of \$5,800,000. HG’s 2022 application estimated an attendance of 14,800 and an estimated direct spending of \$10,030,000.

The event budget is \$365,000 and the total attendance projected for the event is 10,600 attendees with 2,700 hotel room nights, and SP estimating direct spending of \$5,700,000. The SEF grant is to be used for rent, other venue billed expenses, and equipment purchase or rental. If the grant of \$75,000 is approved, the DLCC agreement will be amended to increase venue costs by \$15,000. The grant is being recommended for the economic impact and event growth potential.

Senator Costa asked if this was the group that underwrote the entry fees for organizations who couldn’t afford them.

Ms. King stated that was Basketball Stars of America.

Senator Costa wanted to verify if 3SS came up short on attendance with their last event.

Ms. King confirmed that is correct. Ms. King further stated when 3SS was asked why the attendance was low, 3SS stated last year there were three-day events instead of two and having an event on a Friday deterred a few teams from participating.

Mr. Quatrini stated 3SS net profit was \$377,000, and 3SS utilized these net profits to support 3SS operating costs to put on an additional 25-30 events across the Atlantic and Mid-West region.

Ms. King confirmed that is correct.

Mr. Quatrini stated 3SS took this money and then went outside of Pennsylvania to put on other tournaments in other places. Mr. Quatrini expressed his concerns about the \$377,000 profit as this money wasn't spent in Western of Pennsylvania. Mr. Quatrini further stated he is interested in having a deeper discussion about this.

Senator Costa agreed with Mr. Quatrini. Senator Costa further stated this agenda item requires further review and discussion. Senator Costa said he isn't sure if this is the gross proceeds or profit, and if the grant is offsetting the operational costs without any benefit to anybody in Western Pennsylvania to participate in this event. Senator Costa then made a motion to table this agenda item for further discussion.

On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, this agenda item is tabled to be reviewed at a later date.

Senator Fontana stated that the commission would want to see how the applicant would want to grow this event, when 3SS missed their attendance figure, because with these grants the board wants to see growth, plus the revenue was taken out of Pittsburgh and used in other states.

Mr. Quatrini stated without the SEF funds 3SS still had a net profit of \$302,000 and used this money in other areas of the country. Mr. Quatrini further stated this was a big red flag.

Mr. Hanson stated he wanted to have the record reflect that Item O was severed from the group, and individually tabled for analysis by staff, in compliance with the chairman's motion.

On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried; Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$60,000 to SuperSeriesAAA, LLC (“SuperSeries”) for two hockey tournaments to be held Friday, January 5, 2024, through Sunday, January 7, 2024, at the Alpha Ice Complex and Ice Castle Arena. SuperSeries is a non-profit organization founded in 2013 to host ice hockey games while creating a dedication to enhancing the mental health and physical fitness of athletes, regardless of their chosen sport. SuperSeries is requesting funding to support the Elite Prospects Cup Series (“EPCS”) and Pittsburgh Showcase hockey tournaments.

The EPCS and Pittsburgh Showcase hockey tournaments will be held alongside five interactive sessions centered around coping with mental health. At the 15O, 16U, and 18U levels, each team will play a minimum of 4 games, and 14U and younger level teams will play a minimum of 5 games.

Ms. King further stated the budget for the event is \$137,004, the total attendance projected is 3,147 attendees with 2,000 hotel room nights, and SP estimating direct spending of \$2,629,891. The SEF grant is to be used for venue ice rentals fees and referees. The applicant states without SEF funding the hockey tournaments will occur at a smaller capacity and the mental health component will not occur. This grant is being recommended for the economic impact and it’s a North American event.

Senator Costa asked if this is SuperSeries first time applying.

Ms. King confirmed that is correct.

Senator Costa asked if the tournament was ever held in Pittsburgh.

Ms. King stated she believed the tournaments have taken place in Pittsburgh.

Senator Costa asked if the tournament could commence if SuperSeries doesn't receive SEF funding.

Ms. King stated the tournament would take place in a smaller venue and the mental health aspect would no longer be available.

Mr. Quatrini stated he is in favor of having the mental health portion of this tournament but questioned if this fell under the SEF guidelines.

Ms. King stated that in the past they had 36 teams, and they anticipate growing the event to 42 teams.

Mr. Waller stated the funding would have to go to the actual sporting event, not the mental health component.

Mr. Quatrini stated he is in favor of the idea, but he was just wanting clarity that adding the mental health component on may attract more people, making this a more wholesome event.

Senator Costa clarified that they increased the number of teams which would increase participation. He also stated adding the mental health component is a unique idea and part of the report SuperSeries, and SuperSeries needs to quantify what the mental health component means.

Ms. King stated the sessions are group seminars and will be open to players, coaches, and family members.

Mr. Hanson stated the particular analysis of an additional mental health program doesn't easily fit within the SEF guidelines; however, the guidelines are more than economic impact and deal with the quality of the event, diversity, accessibility, and sustainability are factors the commission is authorized to consider. Mr. Hanson further stated within the guidelines, this commission is certainly tasked with considering the broader event as a whole and whether it is

worthy of being funded. Additions that are non-economic are capable of consideration by this body.

Senator Costa stated the board needs to ensure whatever proceeds provided are to be used for the tournament. Senator Costa then asked will the reimbursement be a for mental health programming or limit the reimbursement to the expenses related to the tournament.

Ms. King stated the funds are being used for venue and ice rental.

Senator Fontana asked if there was hockey being played and what is the programming offered for the mental health component.

Mr. Quatrini stated it was a hockey tournament and part of the tournament there are five interactive sessions centering around coping with mental health challenges.

Ms. McCants-Lewis stated there is a big push in looking into mental health of athletes in sports, specifically in the hockey world.

Mr. Quatrini stated this is unique, where this component is attracting individuals from outside Western Pennsylvania. The board needs to hear how this particular component was attractive and how this helped grow the event over time.

Ms. McCants-Lewis stated the Penguins had a player, Sam Poulin, who took three months off, to take care of his mental health. This was in the Post-Gazette and Tribune Review, and with the news spreading, this sparked efforts to access youth hockey player mental health before moving into adulthood.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. King moved to the next awardee.

Ms. King stated a recommendation of a SEF grant in the amount of \$30,000 to the Pittsburgh Squash Racquets Association (“Pittsburgh Squash”) for a professional and amateur

squash tournament to be held Wednesday, February 7, 2024, through Sunday, February 11, 2024 at the Rivers Club, Oxford Center, Pittsburgh, PA.

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. Pittsburgh Squash is requesting funding for its Pittsburgh Open. The Pittsburgh Open is a professional and amateur squash tournament sanctioned by the Professional Squash Association (“PSA”). Pittsburgh Squash was previously awarded a \$18,500 SEF Program grant in 2022 Round 2. Their Final Report indicated that the event did meet its attendance and direct spending goal with a total of 642 attendees and \$75,119 in direct spending.

The event budget is \$162,100, projected attendance is 730 attendees with 200 hotel room nights, and the applicant also estimates direct spending of \$149,500. The grant is to be used for registration with the PSA, liability insurance, marketing, signage, venue rental, professional referee fees, professional master of ceremonies fee, and on-site medical personnel. The grant is being recommended for potential growth, it’s an international event and being broadcast on Squash TV.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Senator Costa asked if Pittsburgh Squash projects growth with the participants.

Ms. King stated the professional tournament is capped at 24 participants while the amateur tournament is adding approximately 100 players. Ms. King further stated Pittsburgh Squash moved from bronze to silver level and Pittsburgh Squash anticipates this being a bridge year, moving to the next level, attracting more professional players.

Mr. Doug Straley stated Pittsburgh Squash is in the process of building their own facility.

Senator Costa stated the number of amateur participants increase is a plus for the board, and the improvement in the level possibly making Pittsburgh the hub for future squash tournaments and the like.

Mr. Quatrini stated he wanted Pittsburgh Squash to document the spectators from year to year, and he was in favor of how Pittsburgh Squash itemized what the funds were going to be used for.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve of all items. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

RESOLUTION NO. SC030

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 SEF Program grant in the amount of \$30,000 to It's About the Warrior Foundation for a veteran's hockey tournament to be held Friday, May 17, 2024 through Sunday, May 19, 2024 at the Robert Morris University Island Sports Center; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$30,000 to Break The Chains Wrestling for two amateur youth wrestling tournaments, Battle in the Burgh to be held Saturday, September 2, 2023, and West Penn Duals to be held Saturday, November 11, 2023 through Sunday, November 12, 2023, at the Monroeville Convention and Events Center; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Maccabi USA for the Maccabi USA National Team Selection to be held Thursday, July 11, 2024 through Sunday, July 14, 2024 at various locations in Allegheny County; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$50,000 to Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon Inc. for the DICK's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon to be held Friday, May 3, 2024 through Sunday, May 5, 2024 on the streets of Pittsburgh; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$45,000 to Isshinryu Karate Academy of Pittsburgh, Inc. for a four-day karate competition to be held Thursday, August 1, 2024 through Sunday, August 4, 2024 at the Wyndham Grand – Pittsburgh Downtown; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Western PA Bruins for a weekend basketball tournament to be held Friday, April 12,

2024 through Sunday, April 14, 2024 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$10,000 to Pittsburgh Curling Club for five (5) bonspiels to be held October 19, 2023 through June 9, 2024 at the Pittsburgh Curling Club facility; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$45,000 to Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon Inc. for the EQT Pittsburgh 10-mile race to be held Saturday, November 5, 2023 on the streets of Pittsburgh; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$70,000 to the United States Collegiate Athletic Association for a collegiate national soccer championship to be held Thursday, November 16, 2023 through Monday, November 20, 2023 at Montour Junction Sports complex and Highmark Stadium; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$20,000 to Three River Rowing Association for a rowing competition to be held Saturday, October 7, 2023 through Sunday, October 8, 2023 at Washington's Landing and the Allegheny River; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$10,000 to PA Future Stars Report for a high school all-star basketball competition to be held Saturday, April 27, 2024 at North Allegheny Senior High School; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology for a four-day robotics competition to be held Wednesday, February 28, 2024 through Saturday, March 2, 2024 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to the National Association of Intercollegiate Gymnastic Clubs for a three-day national gymnastics competition to be held Wednesday, April 2, 2025 through Saturday, April 5, 2025 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$60,000 to SuperSeriesAAA, LLC for two hockey tournaments to be held Friday, January 5, 2024 through Sunday, January 7, 2024 at the Alpha Ice Complex and Ice Castle Arena; a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$30,000 to the Pittsburgh Squash Racquets Association for a professional and amateur squash tournament to be held Wednesday, February 7, 2024 through Sunday, February 11, 2024 at the Rivers Club; 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.

Mr. Hanson stated for the record all items have been approved and Item G's approval, Rugby 7's, is conditional upon full compliance of the SEF guidelines and filings for their prior

event. Item O, 3Step Sports, has been severed for further consideration. The remaining items are fully approved unconditionally.

Senator Costa asked if anyone in the audience desired to address the board.

Mr. McDonald Jr. stated the public was provided with three options for public participation: email, telephone, or the Zoom chat function. No public comments were submitted via email, there were no registrations to submit a public comment via telephone, and no comments were submitted via the Zoom chat function.

Senator Costa asked if there were any additional comments or business.

Senator Costa stated today's action resulted in approximately \$800,000 distributed over Allegheny County, for a variety of programs, and tens of millions of dollars in economic impact.

Mr. Quatrini thanked the SEA staff for their hard work, especially with the number of applicants that were received. Also, the board has comps for organizations to weigh which ones are making an economic impact and growing attendance. This gives an example for other organizations on the distribution criteria for SEF funds.

Senator Costa agreed with Mr. Quatrini.

With there being no additional comments or business, Senator Costa asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 P.M.