

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF THE
SPORTS & EXHIBITION AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH
AND ALLEGHENY COUNTY
SPORTS COMMISSION
HELD WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024
REMOTELY VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
COMMENCING AT 9:04 A.M. 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, December 11, 2024, commencing at 9:04 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, Jhason Dixon, Sandhya Giri, Randall Porch, Jeff Gartska, Alicia Matos, Hillary Frisbie, Connor Reiche, and Kevin Kaiser of the SEA; Morgan Hanson, Solicitor.

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 Tuesday, September 3, 2024. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, approval of the budgeted uses of the Expense Subaccount for SEA's 2025 operating budget.

Ms. Bridget Pascal stated that pursuant to Section 27.4 of Pennsylvania General Assembly Act 42 of 2017 (Act 42), an annual allocation of funds from the Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund (EDTF) has been made for the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) to establish, administer, and maintain a regional sports commission. Pending such use, the SEA holds the money in a restricted receipts account (EDTF Restricted Account).

Within the EDTF Restricted Account, the Expense Subaccount has been established. Per the Guidelines, 5% of each EDTF allocation is held in the Expense Subaccount to be used to pay SEA costs associated with the Sports Commission. The Guidelines provide that each year, as part of the SEA budgeting process, the SEA submits the budgeted uses to the Sports Commission for approval. Once approved, the funds are included in the SEA's operating budget and once the SEA adopts its operating budget, those Expense Subaccount funds shall be transferred to the SEA operating account and used for the submitted purposes. Any unused funds at the end of the year are returned to the Expense Subaccount.

Ms. Pascal further stated that one year of allocation (\$85,000) is currently held in the Expense Subaccount. An additional \$85,000 will be available for the state fiscal year from July 2025 to June 2026.

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. SC065

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures (Guidelines) the SEA Sports Commission hereby approves the budgeted uses of the Expense Subaccount as presented; and further that the proper officers 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 continued to the next item on the agenda, sports event funding program update.

Ms. Theresa King provided the Sports Commission Board with a PowerPoint presentation with updates from when the SEF Grant Program began. Since its inception, there have been 62 grants funded: 34 are active and 28 are closed and fully paid out. Approximately \$1.4 million has been paid out, with an additional \$1.76 million allocated for active grants. The SEF Program has allocated \$3.16 million to support sporting events in Allegheny County. To date, the program has generated approximately \$110 million for the region, with an additional \$120 million estimated from the completion of all awarded grants.

Mr. Connor Reiche, Program Assistant, stated there will be a new website for the SEF Program. This website will be a user-friendly website focusing on usability, modern design, and clear communication of the program's mission. This will be presented to the board for approval on March 13, 2025.

Ms. King and Mr. Reiche then provided an update on the 2024 SportsETA 4S Summit in Chattanooga, TN. Both stated there were numerous opportunities to gain valuable insight into innovative strategies, how other cities prepare and execute events to elevate tourism, and gained insight into website innovations used by leading sports commissions. There are a couple of conferences in 2025 that they plan on attending.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board.

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.

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 9:43 A.M.