

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF THE
SPORTS & EXHIBITION AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH
AND ALLEGHENY COUNTY
SPORTS COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022
REMOTELY VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
COMMENCING AT 10:35 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 Thursday, September 1, 2022, commencing at 10:35 A.M. E.S.T. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and guidance from public health experts, the meeting was conducted remotely via the online conferencing platform Zoom.

Members of the Commission present:

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

Also Present:

Rosanne Casciato, Mary Conturo, Doug Straley, Rhea L. Thomas, Paul McDonald Jr., Theresa King, Desmond Bentley, Randall Porch, and Jhason Dixon of the SEA; Morgan Hanson, Solicitor; Clarence Curry, CFC-3 Management Services; and Jeff Johnson.

Senator Jay Costa called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Mary Conturo 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. Ms. Theresa King stated that 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 Thursday, June 9, 2022. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of a Sports Event Funding (“SEF”) program grant to Pittsburgh Squash Racquets Association (“Pittsburgh Squash”) for a professional/amateur squash tournament on Wednesday, February 8th through Sunday, February 12th, 2023, at The Rivers Club.

Ms. Conturo stated Pittsburgh Squash is a non-profit formed in 1988 to support and expand the sport of squash in and around the City of Pittsburgh. The professional tournament hosts 24 players from around the world and over 200 fans attend over four days to watch practices and match play, while the amateur tournament hosts over 100 players of all genders, ages, and abilities from Western PA, surrounding states, and Canada. The event also includes a day where urban students from underserved communities will have the opportunity to practice with professional players.

The tournament will take place Wednesday, February 8, through Sunday, February 12, 2023, at the Rivers Club. The Rivers Club can accommodate 100 spectators at a time at the main squash court. Bleachers are set up in the space between the squash and basketball courts, and attendees can sit or stand to watch the match. For the other three squash courts, attendees can stand in the open space behind the court to view matches.

Ms. Conturo further stated that the tournament is sanctioned by the Professional Squash Association (“PSA”), the governing body for the men’s and women’s international professional squash circuit. Due to PSA’s involvement, the event will attract international attention to

Pittsburgh. Plus, Pittsburgh Squash plans to grow the event from the bronze to silver level. Silver level tournaments draw higher-ranked professionals and expect increased interest from the international fan base via traditional and social media outlets. The event is expected to raise local awareness of the sport, which can lead to further growth. It is projected the event will generate approximately 188 room nights. The event budget is \$139,150, and Pittsburgh Squash requests a SEF grant in the amount of \$18,500.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Michael Quatrini asked if there was an error regarding the \$18,500 grant recommendation because the information displayed was \$18,650.

Ms. Conturo stated when the event budget was received, the amount of the acceptable uses totaled \$18,500.

Senator Costa asked if the grant would help grow the program in Pittsburgh and grow from a bronze to a silver level.

Ms. Conturo confirmed that is correct.

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. SC009

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.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, the 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 April 14 – April 16, 2023, at the David L Lawrence Convention Center (“DLCC”).

Ms. Conturo stated that the Western Pennsylvania Bruins (“WPB”) is a non-profit, highly competitive, nationally recognized girls (grades 4-11) basketball organization. This is the ninth year of the event, and it moved to the DLCC in 2021. It has grown from 35 teams in 2013 to 285 in 2022. SEF funding would allow the organization to add additional courts and accommodate more teams.

Ms. Conturo further stated that SportsPITTSBURGH provided a letter of support which represented that SEF funding “is key to the continued success of this event”. In addition to SportsPITTSBURGH, support letters were provided by the Duquesne University and University of Pittsburgh women’s basketball programs. Ms. Conturo stated that WPB indicated any excess funds from the tournament will go toward scholarships for players that would not otherwise be able to participate in Bruins teams/training programs. In 2022, WPB provided 27 scholarships.

Ms. Conturo further stated attendance for the event is projected to be 8,000, and SportsPITTSBURGH estimates direct spending for the 2023 event of \$3.5 million. DLCC records reflect that the 2021 event had attendance of 7,980 and used 990 room nights, with direct spending of \$3 million.

Ms. Conturo stated the event will take place April 14-16, 2023, at the DLCC. The event budget is \$206,748, and WPB requests a SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000. The existing

agreement with the DLCC provides WPB with a rent discount of \$26,991. If the grant of \$75,000 is approved, the rent discount would be reduced by half (to \$13,495). It is recommended that the grant funds be used for rent, other venue billed expenses and equipment purchases or rentals.

Reasons for recommending the grant to the SEA Board for funding include: economic impact; continued event growth; the event occurs in a hard-to-fill time in the tourism calendar; and SportsPITTSBURGH's suggestion that "this event strengthens our standing within the landscape of girl's and women's sports which is increasing in importance as Pittsburgh looks to bid on and host highly visible women and girls-focused events".

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Regarding the discounted rent, Senator Fontana asked if it would be easier to take the discount away from the amount requested.

Ms. Conturo stated that upon review the mechanics of reducing the discount seemed to work best.

Senator Fontana asked if the rent was being paid from the \$75,000.

Ms. Conturo confirmed that is correct.

Senator Costa asked for clarification that there was support from the local universities and that the event needs to remain at DLCC for it to continue to grow.

Ms. Conturo stated the central location is essential to have a strong draw, and SEA received letters of support from Duquesne University and the University of Pittsburgh.

Senator Costa asked if the resolution could be verbally amended to include that the SEA Board could manage the distribution of the proceeds as appropriate.

Mr. Hanson confirmed that the resolution could be amended.

Senator Costa asked for a motion to amend the resolution. The amendment was approved on a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried.

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, subject to the above amendment, was approved:

RESOLUTION NO. SC010

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.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$15,000 to Robert Morris University (“RMU”) 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.

Ms. Conturo stated that this is for a three-day intercollegiate post-season tournament qualifier for the 16-team NCAA Division 1 tournament. The tournament is sanctioned by the Atlantic Sun (“ASUN”) Conference under the auspices of the National College Athletic Association (“NCAA”).

The event/conference is new to the Pittsburgh region and this is the first year the tournament will be held on one of the member schools' campuses. In addition, RMU states the 2023 event could serve as a springboard for future hosting opportunities.

Ms. Conturo further stated the event will take place at RMU's Joe Walton Stadium from May 1 – May 7, 2023. Total attendance is estimated at 1,325 and SportsPITTSBURGH projects hotel room nights of 1,086 with direct spending of \$668,202. The event budget is \$44,927, and RMU requests a SEF grant in the amount of \$15,000.

Reasons to recommended the grant to the SEA Board for funding include: economic impact, the potential to strengthen the region's standing within the sport of lacrosse, and to provide additional experience and visibility with the NCAA.

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. SC011

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.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, 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 DLCC from June 15 – 23, 2024.

Ms. Conturo stated USA Weightlifting is a non-profit organization and national governing body for weightlifting. It has hosted national championships since the 1970s and hosts multiple events yearly. The 2024 National Championships Week will host youth athletes for the first three days, juniors and under 25 athletes for the next three days, and senior athletes for the last three days of competition.

SportsPITTSBURGH plans to submit an official bid for the event by the end of 2022 and believes the SEF grant award would be a critical component of the community's bid package. Approximately 1,200 athletes, 400 coaches, and 200 volunteers are expected for the event, generating an estimated 1,500 hotel room nights and providing direct spending of \$1.5 million.

Ms. Conturo further stated if Pittsburgh wins the bid, the 2024 event will take place at the DLCC from June 15 – 23, 2024. The budget for the event is \$257,288.50, and USA Wrestling requests a SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000 for venue rental and operation costs. Reasons to recommend the grant to the SEA Board for funding include: economic impact; the high level of competition is expected to have a national draw; use of the DLCC; and it would be a new event for the region.

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. SC012

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 L. 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.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, 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 ("WOR") Skills Weekend to be held January 19 – 23, 2023.

Ms. Conturo stated Pittsburgh I.C.E. is a National Hockey League ("NHL") Hockey is for Everyone ("HIFE") program. Pittsburgh I.C.E. currently has 87 participants – 54 from the City of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Public Schools, 25 from other parts of Allegheny County, 5 from Beaver County, 2 from Butler County, and 1 from Follansbee, WV. HIFE programs across North America are 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 WOR Skills Weekend was founded by Willie O'Ree, the first black player to play in the NHL when he made his debut for the Boston 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.

Ms. Conturo stated HIFE programs send players to participate in the WOR Skills 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. The second day

will consist of attending an NHL game where the Pittsburgh Penguins will face off against the Winnipeg Jets. On the third day, the 18 teams will play in a round-robin 3-on-3 tournament at the Hunt Armory, as each team will play three games, followed by a playoff round.

Ms. Conturo further stated that event attendees, including all participants and staff, reside more than 100 miles outside of Allegheny County. HIFE teams that attend the event are from North American cities with NHL teams. On average, eight participants and staff per each HIFE program attend the WOR Skills Weekend event. With 26 HIFE programs, Pittsburgh I.C.E estimates that 208 participants and staff from outside Western Pennsylvania will participate. The WOR 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.

The event budget is \$41,000, the NHL has committed \$10,000 for travel and hotels, and the Pittsburgh Penguins have committed \$12,500 for transportation and tickets to the Penguins game. Pittsburgh I.C.E requests a SEF grant in the amount of \$10,000. The reasons the grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding include: it is a new event with participation from around the country and Canada and will provide high-value exposure to the region.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions

Senator Fontana asked if the grant could be a third of the total cost and shared with the Penguins and NHL.

Ms. Conturo stated of the \$41,000 budget, the SEF grant would be \$10,000, approximately a fourth of the cost, with the understanding that a match for the same amount will be received for the event from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve.

Ms. Tracey McCants-Lewis recused herself from the vote based on her association with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

On a motion duly made, seconded, and carried with one abstention, the following resolution was approved:

RESOLUTION NO. SC013

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.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, 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.

Ms. Conturo stated the application was submitted in conjunction with SportsPITTSBURGH. The event would be a Pittsburgh tour stop for a Rugby 7s (a short form of the game of rugby) tournament. The tournament would occur on a Saturday in June or July 2023. On the day of the tournament, there will be six professional men’s teams and four professional women’s teams that play matches throughout the day. Matches are made up of seven-minute halves. The tournament is expected to be held at Highmark Stadium.

Ms. Conturo further stated that the five days leading up to the Saturday tournament consist of training programs at locations in Allegheny County, with community engagement activities such as local clinics and other integration with youth organizations during the training days. The event budget is \$638,200.

Rugby 7s is sanctioned by USA Rugby and is the form of rugby showcased in the Olympic games. USA Rugby is currently negotiating to host the Rugby 7s Men's World Cup in 2031 and the Women's World Cup in 2033. If the games are awarded to USA Rugby, Pittsburgh would be one of 30 cities vying to be a host city.

Ms. Conturo further stated that it is expected, going forward, that Pittsburgh would be one stop in a planned four-six event tournament season for Premier Rugby Sevens. The long-term plan is for Pittsburgh to be part of an annual tour by 2027 and to grow the event from one tournament day to two and from 10 to 22 teams.

Attendance for the event is estimated at 5,640 and VisitPITTSBURGH estimates that the event will produce 3,981 hotel room nights and \$2 million in visitor spending. The SEF grant funds would be used for the rental and operational costs of Highmark Stadium, needed venue build-out (e.g., locker rooms), and/or the rental costs of the training facilities in Allegheny County.

Reasons for recommendation of the grant to the SEA Board for funding include: economic impact; the national/international fan base for Rugby 7s providing the potential of creating positive national/international media exposure for the region; an opportunity that this could become an annual event for Pittsburgh and could grow from one tournament day to two; 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, if USA Rugby is awarded those games; and the community

engagement activities such as local clinics and other integration with youth organizations that could have a legacy impact for the sport in the region.

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. SC014

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.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Hoop Group Elite (“HGE”) for a boys basketball competition to be held April 21-23, 2023 at the DLCC.

Ms. Conturo stated that HGE is a for-profit organization that has existed for 60 years and has been operating Pittsburgh Jam Fest for 22 years. The event includes a free Thursday night clinic for middle school students (both boys and girls) from Pittsburgh Public Schools. In the long term, HGE would like to expand in size (with additional teams and courts), expand its Thursday night clinic, add younger age groups, and add a girls event.

SportsPITTSBURGH estimates 3,513 hotel rooms and direct spending for the 2023 event of \$10.3 million. DLCC records show the 2021 event had an attendance of 6,776, with 2,327 room nights and \$2.8 million in direct spending. There was no event in 2020 due to COVID-19. The 2019 event had an attendance of 18,020, with room nights of 3,500 and \$6.2 million in direct spending. The event will take place April 21-23, 2023 at DLCC. The event budget is \$415,000, and HGE requests a SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000. DLCC reports that other destinations have shown interest in luring the event away from Pittsburgh.

Ms. Conturo stated that the existing DLCC agreement provides for a rent discount of \$86,307. If the grant of \$75,000 is approved, the agreement should be amended to reduce the discount by \$25,000 to \$61,307. It is recommended that the grant funds be used for rent, other venue billed expenses, and equipment purchase or rental. Reasons to recommend the grant to the SEA Board for funding include: economic impact and the grant will help to retain and continue a major event with growth potential.

Senator Costa indicated a verbal amendment to the resolution would be needed for the SEA Board to manage and distribute these proceeds.

Senator Costa asked for a motion to amend the resolution. The amendment was approved on a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried.

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, and subject to the amendment, the following resolution was approved:

RESOLUTION NO. SC015

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.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$50,000 to Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC, LLC (“Riverhounds”) 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 Highmark Stadium (Pittsburgh), Montour Junction Sports Complex (Coraopolis), and other Allegheny County venues, during December 2022 and March 2023.

Ms. Conturo stated that the Riverhounds is a professional sports organization founded in 1999 that plays professional soccer games at Highmark Stadium. In 2021, the Riverhounds began hosting youth soccer tournaments. The Riverhounds project the attendance for each event of the four tournaments as follows: Three Rivers College Showcase (girls) – 80 Teams at 3200 people/day; Three Rivers College Showcase (boys) – 80 Teams at 3200 people/day; Holiday Classic – 2-Day at 2,304 people/day and 3-Day at 2,160 people/day; RDA Spring Invitational – 125 Teams at 4500 people/day.

Ms. Conturo stated the event budget is \$272,120, and the Riverhounds request a SEF grant in the amount of \$50,000 to be used for field rental. Reasons to recommend the grant to the SEA Board for funding include: economic impact, help to continue a growing event, and the possibility of strengthening the region’s standing within the sport of soccer.

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. SC016

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 \$50,000 SEF grant be provided 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 Highmark Stadium (Pittsburgh), Montour Junction Sports Complex (Coraopolis) and other Allegheny County venues, during December 2022 and March 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.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$47,500 to Carnegie Science Center (“CSC”) for an E-Sports tournament event to be held at CSC during a weekend in the fall of 2023.

Ms. Conturo stated this is a new event with the potential to become an annual event. E-sports tournaments are held in the region, but none of the size and scope as planned for this event. CSC is the organizer but is working with the Pittsburgh Knights (a local professional E-sports team) and Mega Cat Studios (a local company that creates games) to put on the event.

Ms. Conturo stated that CSC 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, pro-am, high school, college tournaments, game developer panels hosted by Mega Cat Studios, and other

speakers and presentations. CSC 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.

Ms. Conturo stated the event is planned for a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in 2023, between October 1st and November 20th. The event, in its initial year, will take place at CSC. Expecting the event to soon outgrow the CSC applicant expresses an intent that it then move to the DLCC. CSC projects a 2023 attendance of 3,000. The event budget is \$95,000, and CSC requests a SEF grant in the amount of \$47,500. Reasons to recommend the grant to the SEA Board for funding include: it is a new event with the potential for growth, organized by a party with related expertise, and the event provides a high-value exposure to the region.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Senator Costa asked if CSC was the applicant.

Ms. Conturo confirmed that is correct.

Mr. Quatrini stated the hope is that the event grows big enough so it comes to the DLCC.

Mr. Doug Straley stated that the CSC desires to move the event to the DLCC when it outgrows CSC.

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. SC017

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.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to GK Sports (“GKS”) for a boys and girls volleyball competition to be held February 2 – 5, 2023 at DLCC.

Ms. Conturo stated that GKS is a for-profit organization formed in 2017. The event, referred to as Steel City Freeze, is a one-weekend volleyball tournament held February 2 – 5, 2023, for teams ages 10-18, boys and girls. GKS first held the event in 2017 at the DLCC, and 56 teams competed on 16 courts. It has been held yearly except for 2021 (due to COVID-19). In 2022, 353 teams competed on 48 courts, and the DLCC states it could accommodate an additional 31 courts.

GKS estimates the 2023 attendance at 11,900, and Sports PITTSBURGH estimates direct spending for the 2023 event of \$2.85 million and estimates local direct taxes of \$81,693 and property taxes of \$41,487.

Ms. Conturo continued that SportsPITTSBURGH will provide \$7,500 financial assistance to the 2023 event. The 2023 event budget is \$198,660, and GSK requests a SEF grant in the amount of \$75,000. The existing agreement with DLCC provides GKS with a rent discount in the amount of \$40,964.50. If the grant of \$75,000 is approved, the agreement would be amended to reduce the rent discount by \$20,000 to \$20,964.50.

Ms. Conturo stated that it is recommended that the grant funds be used for rent and other venue-billed operation expenses. Reasons to recommend the grant to the SEA Board for funding

include: economic impact, the event occurs in a hard-to-fill period in the tourism calendar, and the grant will help retain and continue a major event with growth potential.

Senator Costa indicated a verbal amendment to the resolution would be needed for the SEA Board to manage and distribute these proceeds.

Senator Costa asked for a motion to amend the resolution. The amendment was approved on a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried.

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, subject to the amendment, was approved:

RESOLUTION NO. SC018

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 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.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of a SEF program grant in the amount of \$30,000 to Rise High Elite Basketball, Inc. (“RHEB”) for the Nothing but Net Classic to be held at the All-American Sports Arena/Pro Sports facility, each in Monroeville, or in Allegheny County school gymnasiums, March 24-26, 2023.

Ms. Conturo stated that RHEB was established in 2005 and has operated as a nonprofit organization in Pittsburgh for the past seven years. RHEB recruits at-risk youths for organized

basketball to provide players with increased confidence. The Nothing but Net Classic event is a one-weekend basketball tournament from March 24 – 26, 2023, for grades 2nd through 12th, both boys and girls. The event will occur at the All-American Sports Arena/Pro Sports facility in Monroeville or at Allegheny County school gymnasiums.

RHEB has been an active member of the Amateur Athletic Union (“AAU”) and therefore, hosts its tournament with the national support of AAU and all the services it provides (e.g., child clearances for coaches, player memberships, national advertisement, and event insurance).

Ms. Conturo stated that in 2022 the tournament had over 70 teams participate. The organization anticipates over 100 teams for the 2023 tournament, with teams primarily from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and the DC metro area. The 2023 event will have an increased marketing focus on out-of-town teams and will collaborate with out-of-town programs to help expand its geographic draw.

Ms. Conturo further stated that RHEB estimates 2023 attendance at 1,750. The 2023 event budget is \$156,140 and RHEB requests a SEF grant in the amount of \$30,000 to be used for venue rental and referee fees. Reasons to recommend the grant to the SEA Board for funding include: economic impact and growth potential.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Sala Udin asked who is the coordinator of the event.

Ms. King stated it was Dennis Boyd.

Mr. Udin asked when applications are submitted, is there a way of verifying information about the event from previous years provided by the applicants.

Ms. Conturo stated that often the best information available is a listing of who was registered in the previous events. Ms. Conturo stated some of the smaller organizations did not have a reason to keep/ request more detailed information.

Mr. Hanson stated the applicants do certify that the information they provide is accurate.

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. SC019

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 \$30,000 to Rise High Elite Basketball, Inc. for Nothing but Net Classic to be held at the All-American Sports Arena/Pro Sports facility, each in Monroeville, or in Allegheny County school gymnasiums, 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.

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

Ms. King 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 Fontana stated it's great that some of the events are filling the DLCC during hard-to-fill periods.

Mr. Quatrini thanked the SEA staff for their hard work, especially with the number of applicants that were received.

Mr. Udin stated he was uncertain of the sports commission at first, but with the diverse amount of applicants, it can do wonderful things.

Ms. McCants-Lewis commended the SEA staff for their hard work.

Senator Fontana stated the money for the SEF program comes from the state via Senator's Costa initiative.

Senator Costa stated 25% of the \$1.7 million dollars is going to the maintenance of the public facilities.

Ms. Conturo stated that it is a team effort at the staff level and she appreciates being involved in making a difference.

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 11:34 A.M.