

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF THE  
SPORTS & EXHIBITION AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH  
AND ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
SPORTS COMMISSION  
HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023  
REMOTELY VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
COMMENCING AT 10:05 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 Thursday, December 7, 2023, commencing at 10:05 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, Sue Ricketts, Sandhya Giri, and Alicia Matos 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 Wednesday, September 6, 2023. 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 2024 operating budget.

Ms. Bridget Pascal stated pursuant to Section 27.4 of Pennsylvania General Assembly Act 42 of 2017), an annual allocation has been made of funds from the Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund ("EDTF") for use by the SEA for the establishment, administration, and maintenance of a regional sports commission. Pending such use, the money is held by the SEA in a restricted receipts account ("EDTF Restricted Account").

Within the EDTF Restricted Account, there has been established the Expense Subaccount ("ES"). In accordance with the guidelines, 5% of each EDTF allocation is held in the ES to be used for payment of 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 ES 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 ES.

Ms. Pascal further stated the proposed uses of the expense subaccount are to be included in the SEA's 2024 operating budget. There is currently one year of allocation (\$85,000) held in the ES, and there will be an additional \$85,000 available for the state fiscal year from July 2024 to June 2025.

Before approving this agenda item, Mr. Hanson wanted the record to reflect that Ms. Tracey McCants Lewis joined the board meeting.

Senator Costa asked if there is about 3 million dollars to allocate.

Ms. Pascal confirmed that is correct.

Senator Costa asked if the SEA would receive another \$1.7 million in March or April.

Ms. Pascal stated the funds are received in June.

Senator Costa asked if the \$4.7 million is free and not encumbered by any previous awards.

Ms. Pascal confirmed that is correct.

Senator Costa asked about the structural steel painting for Heinz Field (Now Acrisure Stadium) since there was no amount listed in 2022.

Ms. Pascal stated this was paid within the last three months.

Senator Costa asked when the next round of applications begin.

Ms. Theresa King stated the next round begins on December 15, 2023, and ends on January 16, 2023.

Senator Costa asked has the SEA had been approached about the NFL Draft.

Mr. Aaron Waller stated not in terms of utilizing funds from the Sporting Event Funding Program, but the SEA has been approached by the county in terms of contributions that may come to the SEA for future support of the NFL Draft event.

Senator Costa asked if the NFL Draft would fall under the SEA or Sports Commission.

Mr. Waller stated the event would fall under the SEA under one of the proposals that have come forward.

Mr. Hanson suggested if Pittsburgh would be a finalist for the NFL Draft the Sports Commission and funding would likely be involved.

Senator Costa asked if this not an action item, just a report about the NFL Draft.

Mr. Hanson confirmed that is correct. Mr. Hanson further stated this is informed speculation, but plans are not solidified where the Sports Commission board must take action.

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

Michael Quatrini asked are there any events which have already occurred where the SEA is waiting on invoices to reimburse the organizations.

Ms. King confirmed that is correct. Ms. King further stated five final reports have been submitted and are being reviewed and the SEA is finalizing these reports.

Senator Fontana asked if the outstanding items were included in the budget information.

Ms. Pascal confirmed that those numbers are reflected in the budget information.

Mr. Waller stated that the items are in the budget information, but that Ms. King could clarify as to outstanding matters.

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. SC031**

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 indicated that Ms. King was going to update the Commission as to two outstanding awards.

Ms. King stated two organizations had their applications withdrawn. Maccabi USA had their application removed as the organization notified SEA staff that this event will no longer be taking place in Allegheny County in 2024 and will not be able to accept the Grant. The African American Leadership Foundation (“AALF”) for the Second Annual Pittsburgh HBCU Baseball Classic is not taking place due to scheduling conflicts at PNC Park. As such, moving forward a different sponsor will taking over the event and the new grantee will apply for a new award.

An additional update for the 3 Step Sports or Hoop Group had their grant withheld from the prior meeting for additional information. The report was finalized and is being routed. However, their participation was significantly less so it was recommended to them that they should reapply this next round with updated information.

Senator Costa asked if there were any additional questions.

Mr. Quatrini noted that the additional items were rescinded the last meeting, so he did not believe any additional action was needed.

Mr. Quatrini asked about the new grant software the SEA will use for the upcoming application period and what avenues the SEA is using to market the RFP process to get more organizations to apply.

Ms. King stated the grant management software was live during the last application period and this software assisted with the review process and allowed the SEA to request additional information through the portal. The software has eased the process as the software is a one-stop shop for the applicant for the entirety of the process. It has helped to minimize the communication between the parties.

Mr. Waller stated utilizing the program has been very efficient in communicating with grantees and applicants. Mr. Waller stated that the SEA is working with Fluxx to ensure that the

back end of the program is being worked on to build out the reporting functions. Mr. Waller further stated the marketing of the SEF is through newspapers, the SEA website, and social media.

Senator Fontana asked about the search for a company to do economic impacts and if other companies evaluate economic impact.

Mr. Waller stated the respondents to the RFP are consultants that perform the analysis, the company that VisitPittsburgh (“VP”) utilizes is the dominant player in the industry that provides an economic impact model. The SEA will have to regroup and do more research. He also stated that SEA could issue another RFP.

Senator Costa asked if it was possible to subcontract work out to VP’s entity.

Mr. Waller stated VP currently provides some of the information for the events they are working with.

Mr. Quatrini asked if there is a professor at a local university that works with economic impact analysis where the SC might be able to partner for the economic analysis.

Mr. Waller stated that the idea will be discussed and pursued during the second assessment.

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 10:27 A.M.

