

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF THE
SPORTS & EXHIBITION AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH
AND ALLEGHENY COUNTY
SPORTS COMMISSION
HELD FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023
AT THE DAVID L. LAWRENCE COVENTION CENTER
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
COMMENCING AT 9:35 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 in Room 405 of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA 15222, on Friday, March 31, 2023, commencing at 9:35 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, Rhea L. Thomas, Paul McDonald Jr., Theresa King, Desmond Bentley, Yvonne Ludwig, Jeff Garstka, David Harris, and Randall Porch 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. Rhea L. Thomas 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. Thomas stated that the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (“SEA”) had not received any comments 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, December 7, 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 in the amount of \$60,000 to United States Judo Inc. for a judo tournament to be held Friday, June 21, 2024 through Sunday, June 23, 2024, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center (“DLCC”).

Ms. Theresa King stated that United States Judo Inc. (“USJI”), a non-profit organization established in 1978 to promote and advance the sport of Judo, requests funds for the USA Judo 2024 Junior Olympics Championship. The championship will span three days at the DLCC and include participants ranging in ages from 5 to 20 years old. The event budget is \$161,000, and USJI requests a SEF grant in the amount of \$60,000. The SEF grant will cover referees’ fees, DLCC rental and operational expenses, equipment, and marketing. USJI estimates the 2024 event will have 3,325 attendees. SportsPittsburgh projects the event to generate 3,047 hotel room nights and produce direct spending of \$1,400,000. The reasons for recommending the grant to the SEA Board include: economic impact, expected national appeal due to its high level of competition, location at the DLCC, and potential as a new event for the region that could recur every four years.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Senator Wayne Fontana asked how rent is handled when a SEF grant recipient event takes place at the DLCC.

Ms. King stated that \$40,000 of the budget is for DLCC rent and operating costs.

Senator Wayne Fontana asked if grant recipients receive discounted DLCC rent costs.

Ms. King stated this particular event will not receive a discount, but a previous event had discounted rates in the agreement.

Senator Wayne Fontana asked if the policy going forward will not allow discounts for SEF grant recipients.

Mr. Aaron Waller 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. SC021

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 \$60,000 to United States Judo Inc. for a judo tournament to be held Friday, June 21, 2024 through Sunday, June 23, 2024, 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, the recommendation of a SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Special Olympics Pennsylvania for a softball tournament to be held in September 2024, at various softball field venues located in Allegheny County.

Senator Costa stated Special Olympics Pennsylvania (“SOP”) is a non-profit organization that provides free sports training and competition opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. SOP requests funding for the 2024 Special Olympics North America

Softball Championship, which is an annual event that attracts teams from the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Latin America. The championship will be held for three days in September. The event budget is \$548,800, and SEF grant funding will be used for scheduling software/website fees, insurance, marketing, tents, tables and chairs, portable toilets, softballs, field rental and maintenance, umpires, and team meals.

Senator Costa further stated SOP projects 1,440 attendees, and SportsPittsburgh estimates 1,771 hotel room nights and direct spending of \$1,012,000.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Michael Quatrini stated that it was nice to see international participation.

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. SC022

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 Special Olympics Pennsylvania for a softball tournament to be held in September 2024, at various softball field venues located 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 the Convention Visitors Bureau of Greater Monroeville for sixteen youth baseball and softball tournaments to be held Saturday, April 1,

2023 through Thursday, August 31, 2023, at softball and baseball venues located in Allegheny County by Atlantic Coast Baseball LLC.

Ms. King stated Visit Monroeville, a non-profit organization formed in 1987 to increase and serve the convention, trade show, entertainment, and sports industries in Monroeville, PA, requests funding to support a series of youth baseball and/or softball tournaments to be held by Atlantic Coast Baseball LLC on 16 weekends from April 1, 2023, through August 31, 2023, at various locations in Allegheny County. Visit Monroeville was previously awarded a SEF grant in 2022 Round 1 for \$75,000, which was used for field rentals, baseballs, and softballs. The previous tournament had a total of 28,970 attendees, 10,200 participants, and 6,608 hotel room nights resulting in an economic impact of \$8,600,000.

Ms. King further stated the 2023 grant of \$75,000 will be used for the rental of softball and baseball fields and the purchase of baseball and softballs. The event budget is \$581,620, and Visit Monroeville projects 8,521 hotel room nights, with a total projected economic impact of \$10,043,000. The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding, given the economic impact and the opportunity for growth and expansion of the event.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Quatrini asked if the money Visit Monroeville received during the previous funding helped contribute to event growth, and will the growth continue through 2023.

Ms. King confirmed that is correct.

Senator Costa asked how close the previous event's projected economic impact was to the actual impact reported in the submitted final report.

Ms. King stated the numbers were similar, and further reports were not needed for confirmation.

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. SC023

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 the Convention Visitors Bureau of Greater Monroeville (d/b/a Visit Monroeville) for sixteen (16) youth baseball and softball tournaments to be held Saturday, April 1, 2023 through Thursday, August 31, 2023, at softball and baseball venues located in Allegheny County by Atlantic Coast Baseball LLC (AC Sports), 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 Ferrari Importing Co. (d/b/a GAMMA Sports) for an indoor pickleball tournament to be held Friday, August 18, 2023 through Sunday, August 20, 2023, at the DLCC.

Ms. King stated GAMMA Sports requests funding to support the 2023 GAMMA Pickleball Classic, the largest indoor pickleball tournament in the United States. The tournament brought in over 1,400 attendees in 2022 and is expected to exceed 2,000 with SEF funding. The budget for the event is \$161,559, and the SEF grant of \$75,000 is recommended to cover DLCC rental and operational expenses, tournament software fees, athletic trainers, referees' fees, and marketing. The event will be held at the DLCC, and the net proceeds will be donated to the Parkinson's Foundation of Western Pennsylvania ("PFWPA"). GAMMA Sports projects a total attendance of

2,200 and SportsPittsburgh estimates 447 hotel room nights and direct spending of \$330,000. The grant is recommended for funding due to the economic impact, the opportunity for growth, and the event's location at the DLCC.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Senator Costa stated pickleball is a growing sport and the DLCC can help the tournament grow.

Senator Fontana stated it's a great opportunity to hold onto this event at the DLCC.

Mr. Quatrini confirmed that pickleball is a hot and growing sport, and not many people know Pittsburgh will host the largest pickleball tournament in the country.

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. SC024

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 Ferrari Importing Co. (d/b/a GAMMA Sports) for an indoor pickleball tournament to be held Friday, August 18, 2023 through Sunday, August 20, 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 \$60,000 to Basketball Stars of America for an 11-weekend youth basketball

tournament to be held Friday, May 5, 2023 through Sunday, August 13, 2023, at various locations in Allegheny County.

Ms. King stated Basketball Stars of America LLC (“BSA”), a for-profit organization requests funding to support its 2023 Summer Basketball Tournament Circuit. The event will be held at various locations in Allegheny County on 11 weekends from May 5, 2023, through August 13, 2023. BSA received a grant from the SEF Program in 2022 Round 1 for \$50,000. The 2022 event had 24,550 attendees, 10,140 participants and 14,410 spectators who occupied 2,250 hotel room nights which created an estimated economic impact of \$4,000,0000. BSA projects the 2023 event to generate approximately 25,230 attendees with 6,364 hotel room nights, and an economic impact of \$4,078,000. The SEF Program grant of \$60,000 is recommended for venue rental fees for basketball courts in Allegheny County. The grant is recommended for the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include the potential for the event to grow and its economic impact.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Quatrini asked if for-profit organizations are scrutinized to ensure funds are not for profit and only toward facility costs and growing the event.

Ms. King confirmed that is correct.

Senator Costa asked if teams that could not afford team entry fees last year received discounts from BSA, terms that were agreed upon last year.

Ms. King stated teams did receive discounts but it was difficult for staff to clarify reasons why each team received their discount.

Senator Costa stated SEA staff should remind BSA that discounts should not be given to every team and should be more targeted based on economic needs.

Senator Fontana suggested for-profit organizations need to be accountable and offer discounts only to teams that would not have the opportunity to attend.

Mr. Waller stated the SEA staff will follow-up with BSA in regard to how discounts are distributed to teams.

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. SC025

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 \$60,000 to Basketball Stars of America for an 11-weekend youth basketball tournament to be held Friday, May 5, 2023 through Sunday, August 13, 2023, at North Allegheny schools (Wexford/Pittsburgh) and All-America Fieldhouse (Monroeville), 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 Premier Ice Prospects, LLC for two girls' hockey tournaments to be held Friday, September 1, 2023 through Sunday, September 3, 2023 and Friday, November 24, 2023 through Sunday, November 26, 2023, at various locations in Allegheny County.

Ms. King stated Premier Ice Prospects, LLC ("PIP") is a for-profit organization formed in 2020 to provide female hockey players with an elite experience and exposure opportunities. It is the only exclusive female hockey camp and tournament host in the United States. PIP requests

funding to support two hockey tournaments – PIP’s Labor Day Girls Fest and PIP’s The Burgh Girls Fest. The total budget for both events is \$317,646.43.

The Labor Day Girls Fest is a three-day tournament that attracts high-level players from America and Canada to compete in front of NCAA scouts. It is expected to have 66 top-ranked teams at the 14U/16U/19U age levels with approximately 3,893 attendees and total direct spending of \$2,400,000. The Burgh Girls Fest is a three-day hockey tournament that is open to girls of all ages and skill levels. It is projected to attract 3,721 attendees and generate a total direct spending of \$1,500,000.

Ms. King further stated the SEF Program grant of \$30,000 will be used for venue ice rental fees in Allegheny County. The high cost of ice rental fees in Pittsburgh is a challenge, and the grant will help offset these costs and make the events more affordable for participants. The funding is recommended for approval by the SEA Board due to the significant economic impact of the tournaments, supporting girls in hockey, and the benefit of keeping the events in Pittsburgh. Overall, both tournaments are estimated to generate a total of \$4,000,000 in direct spending, with a total attendance of 7,614 and 7,171 hotel room nights.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Senator Fontana noted the economic impact will get spread across Allegheny County based on the ice rental locations.

Mr. Quatrini stated gender diversity is important when making decisions for grant funding, and the Pittsburgh Penguins like the continued push of hockey in Western Pennsylvania.

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. SC026

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 to in the amount of \$30,000 to Premier Ice Prospects, LLC for two girls' hockey tournaments to be held Friday, September 1, 2023 through Monday, September 4, 2023 and Friday, November 24, 2023 through Sunday, November 26, 2023, at the Ice Castle (Castle Shannon), RMU Island Sports Center (Neville Island), Baierl Iceplex (Warrendale), Mt. Lebanon Ice Center (Mt. Lebanon) and UPMC Lemieux (Cranberry), 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 \$20,400 to the African American Leadership Foundation for a Historically Black Colleges and Universities ("HBCU") baseball game to be held Saturday, September 23, 2023, at PNC Park.

Ms. King stated the African American Leadership Foundation ("AALF") is non-profit organization formed in 2020 to build leadership, increase awareness, and create collaborative opportunities that enhance the well-being of people of color and the communities that they serve. AALF requests funding to support the 2nd Annual Pittsburgh HBCU Baseball Classic.

Ms. King explained that the 2nd Annual Pittsburgh HBCU Baseball Classic will take place on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at PNC Park. The baseball game will be between the Stillman College Tigers and the Wilberforce University Bulldogs. The event is free and open to the public. The game will be a part of the week-long Pittsburgh HBCU Collaborative with the initiative to introduce students and families in the region to HBCUs. The budget for the baseball classic is

\$68,000. AALF projects the event will have 920 attendees with 255 hotel room nights. SportsPittsburgh estimates direct spending of \$154,941. The SEF grant of \$20,400 will be used for televised broadcasting, Greentree SportsPlex fees, umpires, and marketing. The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include the economic impact, the potential for growth, and the event has minority participation.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Quatrini asked if the Pittsburgh Pirates are providing support for the event.

Ms. King confirmed the Pittsburgh Pirates are providing funds to cover PNC Park rent and operating costs.

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. SC027

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 \$20,400 to the African American Leadership Foundation for a Historically Black Colleges and Universities baseball game to be held Saturday, September 23, 2023, at PNC Park, 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 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Association for a vintage car race to be held from Friday, July 14, 2023 through Sunday, July 23, 2023, at Schenley Park.

Ms. King stated the Vintage Grand Prix Association (“VGPA”) is a non-profit organization that raises funds for charities benefiting individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities through their racing events. To date, VGPA has raised \$6.4 million for these charities. VGPA requests \$75,000 for the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (“PVGP”) vintage car race weekend from July 14 to July 23, 2023, at Schenley Park. VGPA projects the event to generate 54,050 attendees and SportsPittsburgh estimates 18,691 hotel room nights and direct spending of \$14,429,687.

Ms. King further stated the SEF grant of \$75,000 will be used for the cost of street closures and installation of concrete barriers and fencing. The funding will help VGPA improve the quality of events, which includes improved graphics, check-in procedures, and tenting. VGPA also plans to embark on a digital marketing plan that includes live streaming of their Schenley Park races and car shows nationwide to raise awareness of their event and the region. The grant is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include the event's potential to highlight the region as an event destination and the economic impact it generates.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Ms. King clarified that the total 10-day event budget is \$1,250,000.

Senator Costa noted the event provides exposure to the region since attendees come from all over the country.

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. SC028

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 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Association for a vintage car race to be held from Friday, July 14, 2023 through Sunday, July 23, 2023, at Schenley Park, 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 there were any additional comments or business.

Senator Fontana stated the SEA staff should promote the grant recipients in a press release for future participation exposure.

Mr. Waller confirmed a press release will be drafted for the committee to review before issuing.

Senator Costa agreed the diverse nature of the recipients should be highlighted to help grow applicants for future rounds and the Pittsburgh region receives needed economic impact.

Senator Costa asked when the SEA Board meeting takes place to approve the grant recommendations.

Mr. Waller confirmed that the next meeting will take place on April 13, 2023.

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

Ms. King stated the SEA advertised a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) for grant management software. Five proposals were received, with four demonstrations taking place for SEA staff. Fluxx is recommended to the SEA Board for funding for reasons that include application capabilities, ease of communication, and process of application submission.

Mr. Straley commented that the grant management software provides a dashboard that connects with the SEA website, and the Hillman Foundation speaks highly of the software.

Mr. Quatrini stated some software may create barriers for people without access to computers and internet.

Mr. Quatrini asked if Mr. Waller was meeting with the Pittsburgh Foundation to discuss how to eliminate application barriers.

Mr. Waller confirmed that the meeting is scheduled for the following week.

Ms. King stated the software allows applicants to fill out forms on phones and tablets.

Senator Costa asked if the next application round was slated for July.

Ms. King confirmed that the next round commences June 15th to July 15th.

Senator Costa asked if there was an increase in applicants from the previous round.

Ms. King confirmed that is correct.

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 10:21 A.M.