

Presentation to the Special Meeting of Council on Boards, Commissions and Committees

It's my pleasure to attend the meeting to share with you some of our accomplishments and challenges over the past two year.

I have served a total of 23 years on this Commission. First as the Administrative Support (while employed as the Deputy Chief Licence Inspector and then Manager of Business Licence) to the Commission for 11 years (during that time I held the Chair position for 9 years). I retired from the City in 2005 after 31 years of service. I returned to serve on the Commission in 2007 as a volunteer member. I was re-elected the Chair in 2009 and have held the position since.

My goal on returning as a volunteer was to ensure a comprehensive set of rules and policies were in place as a solid base of the operation for the Commission. I am happy to say we are well on our way to accomplishing this end. Go forward, easy updates and amendments allow the Commission to continue to operate as a top rated Board, well respected by the Industry.

Meetings:

This Commission is scheduled to meet once every month (except for August). However, as a cost saving measure, when there are no items on the agenda, through agreement of all the members, a meeting will be cancelled. If warranted, we are prepared to call a special meeting of the Commission to address any arising business brought forward after the cancellation we feel cannot wait until the following meeting.

2017 we held 10 regular meetings.

2018 we held 9 regular meetings and one special meeting.

Subcommittees:

By policy, it is the Chair's responsibility to appoint subcommittees and assign member responsibilities as warranted.

In 2018 and early 2019, we struck 2 subcommittees; one to assess potential changes to the matchmaking policy, and the other to set KPI recommendations for the Commission. All decisions are to be reported back to the full Commission for information or vote as required.

Hearing Panels are struck as required, in response to requests for recourse from licensees or in response to breaches of the rules and regulations established by the Commission, pursuant to the Bylaw.

Summary of Initiatives, projects, or work completed:

2017: Events Overseen: 8

During this year we added 5 new policies: Fighters Package, Promoter's Associates, Special or Additional Meetings, Policy on Missing Weight and Commission Travel Policy.

We also amended rules, forms and policies: Interim Kickboxing Rules replaced with Kickboxing Rules to include amateurs; amended, renamed and deleted forms as required by changes to policies and rules; and amended following policies: Matchmaking and Media Guide to better reflect best practices.

2018: Event Overseen: 3

Rewrote and adopted the Mixed Martial Arts Unified Rules for Calgary (June 2018). We received the following accolade from a prominent combative sports legal expert Erik Magraken. In addition to frequent media

appearances, Magraken runs a website which covers legal developments and legislation in combative sports. Often extremely critical of Commissions, Magraken wrote the following in an article about Calgary's new MMA rules:

The compiled 'unified rules' as put together by Calgary with footnotes and explanations about how certain rules are to be interpreted are the most comprehensive and reader-friendly that I have seen to date. They did a great job putting the ABC's various rules and amendments together in a single document. I would encourage any jurisdiction looking to overhaul their MMA regulations to review Calgary's template.

The UFC was in Calgary in July. This promotion is a global leader in MMA, broadcasting live from the Saddledome to a global audience. The event was very successful; the Commission received many compliments for our oversight, the high level of documentation provided to the staff and promoter and as noted above our new rules. We also conducted drug testing at this event on six fighters. The results were filed with the Commission and all six fighters came back negative.

We created new policies including our revised Policy Framework and Technical Officials in Combative Sports Bouts. WE also created two major new documents, a comprehensive guide for Inspectors employed by the Commission and Instructions for Ringside Physicians – a comprehensive document outlining the expectations and procedures for ringside physicians.

We further amended and improved multiple policies, including Matchmaking and Contestants Approval and Suspensions.

Resulting from the MNP consultants report out of Edmonton following the death of a fighter, Calgary Community Standards undertook an extensive review of the current practices of the CCSC with the Chair and Vice-Chair. Our report on that review was presented to Council in April 2018. While we already met or exceeded the standard in the majority of the recommendations, we identified several opportunities to amend and tighten current policies to ensure expectations and procedures were clearly outlined. Those along with other changes I have highlighted for you above.

2019 Work plan:

- Create new Boxing and Kickboxing rules to the format established with the MMA rules so all sets of rules follow the same plain language, structure, and easy-to-read format.
- Finalize the develop KPIs for the Commission.
- Continue to monitor the changes in the industry and ensure our rules and policies remain current.
- Review and update the current Combative Sports Commission Bylaw

Challenges to Fulfilling Mandate:

- The majority of appointments to this Board are individuals that have full time jobs and family at home. They have an expectation of volunteering time but have no concept of the amount of time that may be asked of them to assist with a "working" board.
- The learning curve is lengthy and requires patience from new members. The current model allows for 3 2-yr terms and allowance for an extension if 2/3 of Council support the reappointment. However, members that have fully engaged in learning the policies and rules of the Commission have indicated that after 3 years of learning, they started feeling confident of their decision making without having to check with the Chair. When they are starting to hit their full potential, their term is coming to an end.
- To cross train members on the many duties required to oversee an event or draft policy and rules requires a large commitment from them to ensure the work can be completed and my time in training and

oversight of the work. Again I go back to the first two bullets – learning curve, term length and availability of time.

- Extensive volunteer hours on administrative work are required for many of our report, policy and bylaw rewrites. As the Chair, I have taken on the day-to-day operations of the Board with administrative support from a City staff member. I have worked closely with the Vice Chair to assist with the oversight of the policy rewrites and bylaw changes. These would not have been possible without the assistance of the Vice Chair, Mr. Madigan. His dedication to ensuring the documents were well written and researched has been immeasurable to this Board and has consumed many hours of his time as well.
- Working within a compliance model is difficult for some members from the private sector to fully comprehend. Rules and bylaws don't allow for flexibility of negotiating different terms with a promoter.

Shirley Stunzi, Chair, Calgary Combative Sports Commission

