



**EDMONTON COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION  
FINAL  
MEETING MINUTES**

**November 8, 2021  
7:00 PM  
Online via Google Meet**

**1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Daniela O'Callaghan, at 7:02 pm., Monday, November 8, 2021.

It was acknowledged that the Edmonton Combative Sports Commission meets on the traditional territories of the indigenous peoples of the Treaty 6 region and the Metis settlement in the Metis Nation of Alberta in regions 2, 3 and 4. The Chair acknowledged that we respect the histories, language and cultures of First Nations, Metis and Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada whose presence continues to enrich our community.

**2. Roll Call, Recording of Attendance**

**Present:** Chair Daniela O'Callaghan, Vice-Chair Trevor Kelly  
Commission Members: Sandy Bugeja, Graham Smith,  
Kevin Malahy  
Executive Director, Troy Courtoreille  
Recorder, Tracey Poberznick

**Absent with Regrets:** Tye Babb, Manav Deol

**3. Call for Requests to Speak from the Public**

There were no requests to speak from the public.

**4. Adopt Agenda**

MOVED: That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

## **5. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting**

MOVED: That the October 18, 2021, minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

## **6. Appeals Working Group Update**

The Appeals Working Group met on November 3, 2021, with S. Bugeja and T. Kelly in attendance. A response from the City Solicitor was provided regarding the City's representation of the Commission in any potential judicial review which will be incorporated into the report. The final report will be shared at least five days prior to the December meeting with a more extensive discussion expected at the January 2022 meeting.

## **7. Stakeholder Engagement Working Group Update**

The Stakeholder Engagement Working Group and the Executive Director have a meeting scheduled with City of Edmonton stakeholder outreach on Friday, November 12. They will determine the next steps highlighting the condensed time frames that they now need to work under.

A scan of safety concerns around bare-knuckle boxing was conducted by G. Smith and K. Malahy. The only study found was presented to the Association of Ringside Physicians in 2020. There is very little medical research to prove if bare-knuckle boxing is any more or less safe than other combat sports.

The official name of the sport is Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship and they have their own ruleset. Athlete records are not necessarily recorded on proper databases, so there may not be the history required for fighter safety.

Law did an analysis on Bare-Knuckle Boxing and determined that the definition is the same in both the Commission bylaw and the Licensing bylaw. If the Commission wants to sanction these types of events, a policy amendment, a bylaw amendment and a separate definition for bare-knuckle boxing would be needed. A report to City Council would also be required. The Executive Director will follow up with Law Branch to see if their information can be shared with the Commission.

T. Courtoreille will invite the Chief Medical Officer to the January 2022 Commission meeting to discuss concerns around bare-knuckle boxing and fighter safety. G. Smith and K. Malahy will identify qualified people that could also speak to the Commission, offering honoraria to provide a presentation in January.

The ban on applications stands until the Commission gets a copy of the legal opinion to inform a decision on accepting applications and if bylaw or policy amendments are required. T. Courtoreille will reach out to the Association of Boxing Commissions to see if they can provide any information or feedback to the commission.

## **8. Executive Director Report**

The Chief Medical Advisor position has not yet been secured. Dr. Karmpan is willing to help with the transition and knowledge transfer.

The website has been updated to indicate that the Commission is not accepting applications for bare-knuckle boxing at this time.

T. Courtoreille will remain in the Executive Director role for about six more months and is looking at transition planning for operations.

Increasing the team of officials will be a priority because currently, there is a shortage. This will require providing training and recertification, possibly in house and in conjunction with other Alberta commissions.

### **COVID-19 Update**

The restriction exemption program would require officials, athletes and coaches to be vaccinated or provide a rapid PCR test. Other regulations to consider would be mandatory masking, as well as venue screening, and good COVID-19 safety protocols. These guidelines may make it possible to stage an event in early 2022.

MOVED: That the written report from the Executive Director be accepted as presented. CARRIED

## **9. Financial Statement – September 30, 2021**

The financial statement includes the final payment for the ECSC Administrative Tribunals training in the amount of \$4,060. The Executive Director will reconcile additional costs covered by the City by the end of 2021

MOVED: That the September 30, 2021, Financial Statement be approved as presented.

CARRIED

## **10. Chair Report**

D. O'Callaghan will work with the City on the recruitment process for a new commission member to fill one vacancy starting December 6, 2021. The posting will close on January 16, 2022, and the appointment will be announced on April 11, 2022. Commission members are asked to forward all membership questions to D. O'Callaghan.

The December meeting will be short, followed by a virtual social gathering. Attendees have been approved to order food up to a maximum of \$50 each including tip and delivery fee.

An email will be sent to Commission members on November 15 regarding administrative issues. D. O'Callaghan will need a response from the Commission members as soon as possible.

There is Code of Conduct training for Chairs and Vice-chairs on December 2. The Chair will follow up with Civic Agencies to confirm who should attend.

MOVED: To receive the Chair's verbal report as presented. CARRIED

**11. Next Meeting - December 13, 2021**


The next Commission meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on December 13, 2021.

**12. Adjournment**


MOVED: That the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

I certify that the preceding minutes represent an accurate account of the proceedings at the Commission meeting on November 8, 2021.

  
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Daniela O'Callaghan, Chair

January 18, 2022  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
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Tracey Poberznick, Recorder