

**Sports Advisory Board
Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism
One Constitution Plaza
Hartford, CT 06103
Wednesday, January 26, 2011
11:00 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Jim Abromaitis, Capital City Economic Development Authority
Lynn Carlotto, Arena at Harbor Yard
Robert Doherty, Special Olympics CT
Robert Duffy, Hartford Colonials
Patrick Fisher, Connecticut Sports Management Group, Inc.
Michael Fresher, Bushnell/Rentschler Field
Oz Griebel, MetroHartford Alliance
Curt Jensen, Greater Hartford CVB
Jim Keener for Patricia Meiser, University of Hartford
Pat Murphy for Gene Doris, Fairfield University
Paul Schlickmann, Central Connecticut State University
Chuck Steedman, AEG Management CT, LLC
Eric Knighton for Andrew Weber, CT Tigers

Absent: Skip Barber, Lime Rock Park
Tom Chiappetta, Fairfield County Sports Commission
Dana Ciaifi, Pilot Pen Tennis
Scott Ciecko, State Department of Higher Education
Wayne Dean, Yale University
Ron Drapeau, Connecticut State Golf Association
Jill Ferraiolo, Connecticut State University System
Robert Goughan, Bridgeport Blue Fish
Nathan Grube, Travelers Championship
Kim Hart, Office of Policy and Management
Jeffrey Hathaway, University of Connecticut
Bill Humphreys, BikeGuy
Michael Mazzulli, Mohegan Tribe Athletic Department
Jack McDonald, Quinnipiac University
Larry McHugh, Middlesex Chamber of Commerce
Ann Miron, Sacred Heart University
William Mudano, Connecticut Sports Management Group, Inc.
Michael Murtha, Athletic Department Mohegan Sun
Marie O'Brien, Connecticut Development Authority
Joe Oros, Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development
Larry Perosino, Connecticut Boxing Commission
Michael Savage, CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference
Michael Renwick, Trinity College
Renea Topp, Lime Rock Park
Jennifer Widness, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
Sara Willcox, Pilot Pen Tennis
John Willi, New Britain Rock Cats

Guests/Staff: Karen Senich, Commission on Culture & Tourism

I. **Call to Order**

Chairman Abromaitis called the meeting to order.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Mike Freshner, second by Lynn Carlotto, the Sports Advisory Board approved the minutes of September 23, 2010 as circulated. All were in favor.

III. **Discussion of Current Legislation**

Jim Abromaitis stated that during the last SAB meeting, the consensus of the Board was in favor of continuing the efforts of the legislative approach to create a state sponsored Sports Authority. The SAB will need to discuss and decide what the strategy should be for moving forward, and if we are to continue in the same direction or go in a different direction.

Roundtable discussions ultimately in the end lead back to the Sports Authority being privately funded and endorsed by the state. It was agreed that all options should be explored to achieve the goal of state endorsement.

IV. **Next Steps**

Suggestions for the process:

1. resend last year's legislation to members for review and added suggestions for background
2. scheduling of several meetings with key individuals
3. drafting of a preliminary business plan – selection of business model
4. estimated start-up costs and budget
5. funding sources (i.e. membership fees, grants, company sponsorships, etc.)
6. timeline of key milestones
7. Creation of 5013C

In order to accomplish this – several committees need to be established along with volunteers from all sectors of the industry being represented on both committees. Jim Abromaitis and Karen Senich will assist with working groups.

Legislative/Political Workgroup

Representative-MetroHartford Alliance, Tom Chiappetta

Business Plan Committee

Chuck Steedman and Mike Freshner Co-Chairs, Lynn Carlotto, Beau Doherty, Patrick Fisher, Curt Jensen, Nathan Grube

Individuals willing to serve on these committees should contact Jim Abromaitis or Karen Senich. It was requested that the subcommittees have their information available the last week of March, with another SAB meeting scheduled for April 6, 2011.

V. **Organization/Venue Update**

Jim Abromaitis noted two presentations were planned for today. Because of the weather the presentation by Bill Humphreys – The Bike Guy and Rev3 Triathlon have been postponed.

Karen Senich added, Rev3 Triathlon is planning its third year Triathlon in Middlebury,

and the organization is seeking volunteers to work the races. As more information is received, she will forward it along to the Board.

Lynn Carlotto reported Fairfield is number heading into the MAAC tournament – March 3-7, 2011, followed by the NCAA Men’s Division I East Regional Ice Hockey Tournament on March 25 & 26th. Arena at Harbor Yard was successful in securing a naming-rights partner. Webster Bank has signed on for a 10 year 3½ million dollar sponsorship.

Michael Fresher reported a Hockey Fest is planned at Rentschler Field with 30 games scheduled during February 9 – 22nd. On February 13th the UCONN Men’s & Women’s team are scheduled to play, on Feb 19th the CT Whales is scheduled to play Providence, and an Alumni game between the Whales celebrity team and the Bruins. In April – return of the Warrior LaCrosse event, Hofstra, UMass, Syracuse, Rutgers, and UCONN spring scrimmage games.

Eric Knighton reported CT Tigers at Dodd Stadium were name host of the 2013 New York Pen League All Star Game, and will host the Northeastern Conference Baseball Championships this spring and a few UCONN baseball games.

CT Special Olympics adult events this season consisted of Ice Hockey, snow shoeing, figure and speed skating. Scheduled - March Madness with 12 basketball tournaments.

Preparations are underway for the Big East Women’s Basketball Tournament. Next year, Fairfield University is hosting the Men’s Ice Hockey and the first and second rounds of the NCAA Women’s Basketball tournament.

Hartford Colonials finished with their first season at Rentschler, and are planning for 2011 season.

VI. New Business

VII. Old Business

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.