

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission  
1000 Washington Street, Boston**

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

**PUBLIC MINUTES**

**Date:** November 25, 2019

**Location:** Rm. 1C

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Rod Walkey

Clinton Dick, Deputy General Counsel of Enforcement

Commissioner Diane Symonds

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Commissioner David Riccio

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Commissioner Paul Karger

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

**COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Commissioner Bryan Lambert

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Sam Silverman, President of the Rondell Clark Foundation

**Meeting called to order by Chair Rod Walkey at 11:07 AM.**

**1. Roll Call**

David Riccio, Commissioner

Rod Walkey, Chair

Diane Symonds, Commissioner

Paul Karger, Commissioner

Clinton Dick, Deputy General Counsel of Enforcement

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Sam Silverman, President of the Rondell Clark Foundation

**2. Approval of Minutes from October 31, 2019**

A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

**3. Application for Promoter – Joseph DeGuardia**

Applicant Joseph DeGuardia applied for licensure via telephone. Mr. DeGuardia stated that his promotional company has been in operation since 1992 and has held events all over the country. Mr. DeGuardia wishes to expand his televised promotions to Massachusetts with the first event to take place at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield. Mr. DeGuardia stated that he also plans to run his events at Fenway Park in Boston and the Encore Casino in Everett.

A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### **4. Application for Matchmaker – Ronald Katz**

Applicant Ronald Katz applied for licensure via telephone. Mr. Katz stated that he has been a matchmaker for over 40 years. His bouts have been featured on HBO, Showtime, ESPN, and numerous other pay-per-view and televised productions. Mr. Katz has been matching with Joseph DeGuardia of Star Boxing for many years and is excited to return to Massachusetts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### **5. Variance Request – Joseph DeGuardia**

Joseph DeGuardia, via telephone, requested a variance from *523 CMR, Section 10.02 Event License: Submission and Approval of Program and Date: Content: Payment of Fee: Cancellation of Program* for the purpose of applying for the event date of November 25, 2019 at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield. The application for this date would not be in accordance with the requirement for licensure of an event at least 30 days prior to the scheduled date of event. Mr. DeGuardia stated that the requested date is provided by NECN and cannot be negotiated.

A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to approve the variance as written, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### **6. MSAC Staff – Point Karate, Grappling, Wrestling**

On behalf of MSAC staff, Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III addressed the board with findings on how many Athletic Commissions regulate Wrestling and Point Karate. Mr. Licciardi found that many states do regulate both styles of unarmed combat; however, this is usually at an amateur level. The board asked MSAC staff to research the obstacles of regulating these disciplines both at professional and amateur levels. MSAC staff will report back to the board at a later date.

#### **7. 523 CMR Regulation Review**

Clinton Dick, Deputy General Counsel of Enforcement tabled this item to the next available agenda.

#### **8. Upcoming Event Schedule**

The board reviewed the upcoming event schedule.

#### **9. Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

The board reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

#### **10. Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of meeting**

Sam Silverman, President of the Rondell Clark Foundation, addressed the board inquiring on the timeline for the 523 Regulation Review to be completed and passed. Chair Rod Walkey and Commissioner Symonds detailed the process of the review and the steps regulation review must go through. Commissioner Symonds explained the many agencies that play a role in the review and its final process of completion.

Commissioner Karger made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 PM.

**Board Exhibits:**

Draft minutes for October 31, 2019

Application – Joseph DeGuardia

Application – Ronald Katz

Variance Request – Joseph DeGuardia

Event Schedule

Meeting Schedule