

HAWAII STATE BOXING COMMISSION
Professional & Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING

The agenda for this meeting was filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, as required by section 92-7(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Place: Princess Likelike Conference Room
King Kalakaua Building, 3rd Floor
335 Merchant Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Present: Mike Freitas, Chairperson
Nante Manangan, Member
Snooky Fujikawa, Member
Alan Taniguchi, Executive Officer (“EO”)
Mana Moriarty, Esq., Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
LaJoy Lindsey, Secretary

Excused: Mark Ozaki, Member

Guests: Hubert Minn – World Boxing Council (“WBC”), Judge – Hawaii State Boxing Commission
Langston Hampton, Jr. – Lank Promotions, LLC
Clara Marie King – Lank Promotions, LLC

Call to Order: There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order by Chair Freitas at 1:30 p.m. He also advised that since there were only three commission members present, all voting must be unanimous.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: It was moved by Mr. Fujikawa, seconded by Mr. Manangan, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Commission’s meeting held on February 6, 2018, as circulated.

Executive Officer’s Report: EO Taniguchi advised that there is one vacancy. Due to the terming out of Mr. Bruce Kawano (2018) and that Commissioner Ozaki had e-mailed him advising him that he has health issues and is considering resigning. So, there may be two vacancies on the commission. Since the legislative session has started, individuals interested in serving on the commission may apply online through the Governor’s website. The sooner the better as hearings will be held soon for commission and board appointees.

Approval of
License

Applications:

a. Professional Boxing Promoter

1. LANK PRODUCTIONS

Mr. Langston Hampton of Lank Productions. He is interested in becoming a Hawaii boxing promoter. He's on-island looking at venues, which is usually the hardest part. Normally promoters visit to secure venues once they already have an event in mind. Mr. Hampton chose to visit far in advance. He's considering July 27, 2019 at Aloha Tower. EO Taniguchi advised him that because he's also responsible for regulating MMA (Mixed Martial Arts), Mr. Hampton must coordinate with EO Taniguchi to prevent any scheduling conflict.

EO Taniguchi advised the commission that Mr. Hampton's application is before them for review and the only document missing is the insurance for the fighters; however, being that the intended date of the event is months away, it is acceptable for him to provide insurance documents as the date of event nears.

He also turned in a tax clearance for the state of Tennessee, but he's required to provide a clearance for Hawaii as well. Mr. Hampton has not conducted any business in Hawaii, so would not have any taxes due to the state. EO Taniguchi advised Mr. Hampton that if and when his license is approved, he'd have to register with the Business Registration Division of DCCA.

EO Taniguchi mentioned that he always conducts background checks on prospective licensees and there were some issues in Tennessee, of not paying fighters in a timely manner. In Florida there is a complaint against him for not paying officials in a timely manner. Mr. Hampton contested those allegations. EO Taniguchi stated that the information was provided to him by his counterparts in Tennessee and Florida.

Chair Freitas asked if either Commissioner Fujikawa or Manangan had any questions for Mr. Hampton. Neither Commissioner had any questions. Chair Freitas asked Mr. Hampton to share a little information about himself.

Mr. Langston Hampton Jr., introduced himself. He is 33 years old. Many in the boxing community know him as Don King's grandson. He has been promoting shows for the past three years, state to state. He held his first event in Ocala, Florida and it sold out. The last fight he promoted was in Tennessee and Floyd Mayweather and his fighters were present. As for the discrepancies that EO Taniguchi mentioned, there was a fighter who was basically trying to extort him out of money. But Mr. Hampton produced the documents indicating that he paid the fighters in cash,

Tennessee then sent a clearance letter and dropped the case. What he learned from that experience is to have his attorney present when he pays the fighters. Also, to give the checks to the Commission so he won't be involved in any "he said, she said" situations. He has nothing pending, his license is not suspended and he has a partnership with Floyd Mayweather and written approval to put on shows with Floyd Mayweather's fighters from state to state. To even have Mr. Mayweather agree to co-partner with him, is validation that he must be a savvy business man.

He has another show scheduled in May to be held in Tennessee. The show will be aired on Showtime. Chair Freitas advised him that in Hawaii we do things a little different. Mr. Hampton was aware that the money must be in to the commission four days prior to the event. Chair Freitas mentioned that was important to point out. He read the document and noticed several inconsistencies; however, the final report was okay. Chair Freitas was concerned that he didn't read anything about the Florida incident. Mr. Hampton hadn't either and mentioned that he and Commissioner Patrick Cunningham had no communication regarding the allegation. EO Taniguchi mentioned that Mr. Cunningham was told that some officials weren't paid on time. Yet Mr. Cunningham advised EO Taniguchi that Mr. Hampton's license in Florida is not suspended.

Chair Freitas mentioned that based on that information, he has no issue with moving Mr. Hampton's application forward for licensure. However, just for clarification purposes, it would be best if Mr. Hampton could clear that up. Perhaps the Florida commission could send EO Taniguchi a clearance or other notification indicating that there are no outstanding issues against him.

Chair Freitas then presented Mr. Hampton's application for a promoter's license to a vote. Mr. Fujikawa moved, Mr. Manangan seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve Mr. Hampton's promoter's license under Lank Productions. EO Taniguchi advised that Mr. Hampton would still be required to appear before the commission once he has a venue and a card. The cards must be approved to ensure that the matches are fair. He needs to provide the contracts at least eight days prior to the event.

Mr. Hampton mentioned that he usually has required documents prepared two months prior to any event. EO Taniguchi mentioned that weigh-ins are the day prior to event. He also asked if Mr. Hampton planned to have local fighters on the card. He affirmed that he would. Chair Freitas also mentioned the requirement for judges and officials and that there are local officials available. EO Taniguchi will inform him in advance as to how many officials will be required once he knows how many fighters there will be. Mr. Hampton mentioned that he has four officials on standby, all pending the commission's approval. Mr. Minn asked how many bouts he planned on having. Mr. Hampton replied that

he was looking to have 9-10 bouts. Four of them are to be title fights with the American Boxing Federation. In Tennessee, the fight was held at the Fedex Arena with a 20,000 seat capacity. He was the first and youngest promoter to put on a fight in an NBA arena. Mr. Floyd Mayweather has been present at his events, which is validation for him. Mr. Minn asked if he had checked out Aloha Tower. Mr. Hampton replied that after the meeting, he has a meeting at Aloha Tower. The capacity is approximately 1,200.

He considered the Waikiki Shell, but it will be under renovation. Another option would be the Blaisdell center. He intends on visiting the various venues before departing Honolulu. He was asked if he inquired about the Stan Sheriff Arena at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. He wasn't aware of it. The convention center is booked. Mr. Fujikawa advised that the convention center is not ideal as there are too many pillars in the way. Since he intends on promoting an event in July, he plans on visiting at least three times prior to the event and any announcement. Mr. Minn asked if he's having four title fights, will they be 10-rounders? He replied that usually the main event is 12 rounds, the co-event 10 and the others 8 or 6 rounds. He tries to complete his events within 2.5 hours.

Chair Freitas asked if there were further questions. Mr. Minn mentioned that the North American Boxing Federation ("NABF") is holding a convention in Honolulu in May, so the best officials in the world will be here. They'll be coming from Canada, North America, Mexico and Asia. It sure would be good to have a fight as most of our conventions always have a fight. Mr. Hampton asked if the commission allows for events to be held on a national holiday. EO Taniguchi replied that he can hold an event on whatever day he chooses as long as he has a venue. Mr. Hampton shared that he has a venue and the reason he's asking is that he is considering putting on a big event for the state of Hawaii but he wanted clearance from the commission as far as the date.

EO Taniguchi stated that Mr. Minn's mention of having an event at the NABF convention would be beneficial to him as he wouldn't need to fly in officials as there will be many officials on-island for convention. Mr. Hampton mentioned something big like 50,000 people. He was advised that would be very difficult to achieve. Mr. Minn mentioned that there hasn't been big boxing matches here for a while and that Mr. Hampton might want to consider contacting Duane Ford the NABF President and coordinate something with him. Most of our conventions always have a fight. He also shared that many have come before Mr. Hampton, sat in that chair and left because Hawaii is a very different place.

Mr. Minn mentioned that if he could draw 3,000 that would be a lot. Mr. Hampton again mentioned 50,000. He mentioned having Floyd Weather as a main event and that should draw a big crowd. Mr. Minn advised that he would need a venue. Mr. Hampton was considering the Aloha Stadium. Mr. Minn shared that he is on the Stadium Board. Mr. Hampton

shared that Mr. Mayweather drew a crowd of 37,000 in a recent fight in Japan.

Ratification of License Applications:

Renewal Applications

Chair Freitas asked for a motion to ratify renewal applications.

It was moved by Mr. Fujikawa, seconded by Mr. Manangan, and unanimously carried to approve renewal applications as listed below:

Judge:

Keopuhiwa, Michael

Referee:

Keopuhiwa, Michael

Seconds:

Blue, Armando

Fujii, Alan

Takata, Daryl

New Business:

Chair Freitas recommended that the Commission recognize Mr. Bruce Kawano for his service to the Board. EO Taniguchi mentioned that he could have a certificate sent to him which would be signed by the Director or Governor. Chair Freitas then extended condolences from the commission to Mr. Hubert Minn on the passing of his father, Herbert Minn. His 85 years of dedication to boxing exemplified his sincere love of the sport and his mentorship will be sorely missed by all of us.

Correspondence:

None.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be at EO Taniguchi's discretion once he receives request from Mr. Hampton to promote boxing event. Mr. Minn mentioned trying to present professional boxing events in Hawaii, but the root is really the amateurs. His concern is that the trainers need to be certified as there are so many of them. He is trying to secure a \$50,000.00 grant for them. When he went to a meeting, they were running on just \$17,000.00. Many use their own money to travel. Perhaps some of that money can be used for training. Mr. Minn has an opportunity to bring a team to Madison Square Garden. He asked for the Board's support.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Taken and recorded by:

LaJoy Lindsey, Secretary

Reviewed and approved by:

Alan Taniguchi
Executive Officer

AT:ll
2/25/19

- Minutes approved as is.
- Minutes approved with changes; see minutes of _____.

DRAFT