

**Sports Advisory Board
Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Blvd.
Hartford, CT 06103
Thursday, September 23, 2010
9:30 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Jim Abromaitis, Capital City Economic Development Authority
Lynn Carlotto, Arena at Harbor Yard
Tom Chiappetta, Fairfield County Sports Commission
Robert Doherty, Special Olympics CT
Gene Doris, Fairfield University
Michael Fresher, Bushnell/Rentschler Field
Jim Foye for Oz Griebel, MetroHartford Alliance
Kim Hart, Office of Policy and Management
Bill Humphreys, BikeGuy
Curt Jensen, Greater Hartford CVB
Jim Keener for Patricia Meiser, University of Hartford
Marie O'Brien, Connecticut Development Authority
Joe Oros, Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development
Larry Perosino, Connecticut Boxing Commission
Keith Sheldon for Chuck Sheehan, Northland AEG
Andrew Weber, CT Tigers

Excused: Skip Barber, Lime Rock Park
Scott Ciecko, State Department of Higher Education
Dana Ciaifi, Pilot Pen Tennis
Wayne Dean, Yale University
Charlie Dowd, Dodd Stadium – Connecticut Defenders
Ron Drapeau, Connecticut State Golf Association
Jill Ferraiolo, Connecticut State University System
Robert Goughan, Bridgeport Blue Fish
Nathan Grube, Travelers Championship
Jeffrey Hathaway, University of Connecticut
Rick Hazelton, Trinity College
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
Dr. Karissa Niehoff, CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference
Gloria Ragosta, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
Michael Roth, Wesleyan University
Renea Topp, Lime Rock Park
Sara Willcox, Pilot Pen Tennis
John Willi, New Britain Rock Cats
Joyce Wong, Eastern Connecticut State University

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

DRAFT

Call to Order

Chairman Abromaitis called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Joe Oros, second by Gene Doris, the Sports Advisory Board approved the minutes of May 26, 2010 as circulated.

Discussion of Sports Advisory Boards future and legislation

While there was limited direct response from Board members to the survey, the consensus of those in attendance at the meeting was to continue the effort because the legislation was close to passage and that we need to better control the message, better define the model and reach out even more to those in leadership positions.

The discussion primarily was geared toward the need for the State's backing if a "Sports Corporation" were to have any influence in the market. It seems that there is concern that without the State's support, the Corporation would not have the impact it needs to compete for events or the perception that the state is truly committed and is organized in its approach.

A majority of Board Members seem committed to the process of trying to continue the legislative approach. It was also suggested that the Gubernatorial candidates should be approached prior to the election to gauge how the candidates foresee Sports and the economic impact in the state. Members offered to get the issue in front of Dannel Malloy and Tom Foley. Pertinent information will be forwarded that might be helpful for those briefings. It was also suggested that the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges also receive the material.

There is a Tourism forum on September 29, 2010 featuring the candidates at the CT Convention Center. It is important that briefing material be received by the candidates prior to this forum.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding next steps.

Each Board member updated the Board about business at hand and planned events for the near future.

Jim reminded everyone about website growctsports.com. Jim noted that if and when the website is up and running it will need to be maintained and updated regularly if it is going to be used as a tool to let people statewide know about upcoming sporting events.