

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF THE  
SPORTS & EXHIBITION AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH  
AND ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
SPORTS COMMISSION  
HELD, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024  
REMOTELY VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
COMMENCING AT 9:01 A.M. E.S.T.

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Sports Commission (the “Sports Commission”) was held upon proper notice on the online conferencing platform Zoom on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, commencing at 9:01 A.M. E.S.T.

Members of the Commission present:

Sen. Jay Costa, Chairman  
Sen. Wayne Fontana, Member  
Tracey McCants-Lewis, Member  
Michael Quatrini, Member

Also Present:

Aaron Waller, Bridget Pascal, Doug Straley, Rodney Pratt, Paul McDonald Jr., Theresa King, Sandhya Giri, Randall Porch, Hillary Frisbie, Robert Baugh, Kevin Kaiser, Connor Reiche and Alicia Matos of the SEA; Morgan Hanson, Solicitor.

Senator Jay Costa called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Morgan Hanson followed with a roll call of the board members and advised that a quorum was present.

Beginning with public participation, Senator Costa asked if any members of the audience would like to address the board. Members of the public were offered participation by email, telephone, or the Zoom chat function. Mr. Paul McDonald Jr. stated the Sports Commission had not received any comments via email, no one registered to speak via telephone, and no comments were submitted via the Zoom chat function thus far. Seeing no request from the public to address

the board, Senator Costa moved to the next item on the agenda, approval of the minutes from the meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2024. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$40,000 to MYHockey Tournament, LLC (“MT”) for the Steel City Tournament to be held Friday, September 27, 2024 through Monday, February 17, 2025, at the Ice Castle Arena.

Ms. Theresa King stated MT is a for-profit organization established in 1998 to organize ice hockey tournaments and is seeking funding to support its 2024-2025 Steel City Tournament Series. This hockey series will feature eight youth tournaments, catering to players aged 7 to 18. The series is scheduled to begin on September 27, 2024, and will run through February 17, 2025. All tournaments will be held at the Ice Castle Arena and are officially sanctioned by USA Hockey. Each tournament is expected to attract 40 to 50 teams, with every team guaranteed a minimum of four games. Teams traveling more than 70 miles are required to book accommodations through the MT hotel room block.

The total budget for this event is projected at \$527,275, with an anticipated net profit of \$357,725. The applicant indicates profits from the event will be reinvested in future events and distributed to ownership partners. The 2023-2024 tournament series had 354 teams participate, and the upcoming 2024-2025 series expects similar participation levels. The applicant projects a total 2024-2025 series attendance of 17,305 people (6,820 local, 450-day trips, and 10,035 overnight stays), with an estimated 11,000 hotel room nights. SportsPittsburgh (“SP”) estimates that the series will generate direct spending of \$8,090,146.

Ms. King further stated the event would proceed without the SEF grant. However, the funding will enhance the participant experience, enable the hiring of additional local staff, and

help maintain lower registration fees. SEA staff contacted the applicant twice to seek clarification on the history of registration fees and to understand how the SEF grant would enhance participant experience and support event growth. However, SEA staff has not received any information from the applicant. AN SEF Program grant of \$40,000 is recommended to be used for the cost of ice venue rental. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for its economic impact and will help reduce registration fees.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board.

Senator Fontana stated the board and staff need to monitor organizations not responding when additional information is requested.

Senator Costa agreed with Senator Fontana's concerns, and if these organizations do not respond, they will not receive the grant.

Mr. Michael Quatrini agreed with Senator Costa.

Senator Costa asked Ms. King how many times she contacted the MT.

Ms. King stated multiple times through phone calls and emails.

Mr. Quatrini made a motion to decline this agenda item.

Senator Costa then asked for a second motion to reject the agenda item. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the agenda item was denied.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Atlantic 10 Conference ("A-10") for the 2026 A-10 Men's Basketball Championship to be held Wednesday, March 11, 2026, through Sunday, March 15, 2026, at PPG Paints Arena.

Ms. King stated the A-10 is a non-profit organization established in 1975 with 15 diverse members across nine states and Washington, D.C. The A-10's mission is to enhance the student-

athlete experience through 22 nationally competitive championship sports. The A-10 seeks funding to support its 2026 A-10 Men's Basketball Championship.

This championship will be a five-day, 14-game, single-elimination tournament, with the winner receiving an automatic bid to the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship. The participating teams include Davidson College, University of Dayton, Duquesne University, Fordham University, George Mason University, The George Washington University, La Salle University, Loyola University Chicago, University of Massachusetts, University of Rhode Island, University of Richmond, St. Bonaventure University, Saint Joseph's University, Saint Louis University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. The event was last held in Pittsburgh in 2017, and the total projected budget for the 2026 event is \$801,447.

Ms. King further stated from 2015 to 2024, the event averaged a total attendance of 47,868 people. However, this figure includes repeat attendees across multiple sessions. The average attendance per session is approximately 6,838 people. The applicant projects total unique attendance for the 2026 event at 7,342 people (1,773 local and 5,569 overnight stays), with an estimated 12,711 hotel room nights. SP estimates the series will generate direct spending of \$12,706,131. While the event will proceed without an SEF grant, the requested funds would enable the A-10 to enhance marketing and promotional efforts, potentially increasing attendance.

An SEF Program grant of \$75,000 is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the cost of PPG Paints Arena building services and related staffing. The grant would have an economic impact and promote Pittsburgh as a sporting event destination.

Senator Fontana asked if the organization was non-profit.

Ms. King confirmed.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION NO. SC047**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Atlantic 10 Conference for 2026 A-10 Men's Basketball Championship to be held Wednesday, March 11, 2026 through Sunday, March 15, 2026 at PPG Paints Arena, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Pittsburgh Physique Promotions, Inc. (“PPP”) for the Pittsburgh Power and Fitness Festival to be held Saturday, May 10, 2025 through Sunday, May 11, 2025, at the DLCC.

Ms. King stated PPP is a for-profit organization established in 2015 to provide a platform for all health and wellness athletes to compete among their peers and be judged fairly, regardless of race, religion, gender, or physical abilities. PPP is seeking funding to support its Pittsburgh Power and Fitness Festival.

This festival will be a two-day international event featuring two premier competitions: the 25<sup>th</sup> International Federation of Bodybuilding (“IFBB”) Pittsburgh Pro and the 50<sup>th</sup> National Physique Committee (“NPC”) Pittsburgh Championships. The IFBB is a professional physique competition where athletes compete for cash prizes and a chance to qualify for the Mr. Olympia

Weekend, the “Superbowl of Bodybuilding.” The divisions include Classic Physique, Men's Physique, Women's Physique, Wellness, Figure, and Bikini. The NPC is an amateur physique competition where the best-of-the-best physique athletes from more than 15 countries compete to earn one of up to 32 IFBB pro cards.

This year’s event will also feature a new fitness expo with over 200 booths and three additional events: strongman, powerlifting, and mixed martial arts, and all competitions will have professional and amateur categories. The total budget for this event is projected at \$1,115,275, with an anticipated net loss of \$9,775. The applicant projects total attendance for the 2025 event at 10,000 people (2,680 local, 3,310-day trips, and 4,010 overnight stays), with an estimated 8,387 hotel room nights. SP estimates the festival will generate direct spending of \$4,696,007. The SEF grant will enable PPP to establish a solid foundation for the festival, allowing expansion in the number of booths, athletes, and sporting events. Over the next five years, the organization will utilize the entire DLCC, hosting 10,000 athletes from 50 different sports, and nearly 100,000 attendees.

Ms. King further stated an SEF Program grant of \$75,000 is recommended for equipment rentals, DLCC venue rental and operation costs, competition production costs (staging, audio, and visual expenses), security, and EMTs. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the economic impact, growth potential, international participation with competitors from over 15 countries, use of the DLCC, and promotion of Pittsburgh as a sporting event destination.

Senator asked if there were any questions.

Senator Fontana asked if there was a report that displays how much economic impact comes from events at the DLCC.

Ms. King said she would contact the DLCC and report that information to the board.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION NO. SC048**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Pittsburgh Physique Promotions, Inc. for the Pittsburgh Power and Fitness Festival to be held Saturday, May 10, 2025 through Sunday, May 11, 2025 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (“JCC”) for the JCC Maccabi Campus Games to be held Sunday, August 3, 2025, through Friday, August 8, 2025, at the University of Pittsburgh and various other locations throughout Allegheny County.

Ms. King stated JCC is a non-profit organization formed in 1985 to enrich the community by creating an environment that strengthens individuals and families for their physical, intellectual, and spiritual well-being. JCC is seeking funding to support its JCC Maccabi Campus Games.

The JCC Maccabi Games are an Olympic-style sporting competition held over six days for Jewish teenagers ages 12 to 17. Up to 12 individual and team sports will be played that will draw teams from up to 60 delegations across North America and worldwide, including Israel, Mexico,

Argentina, Great Britain, Ukraine, and Hungary. The events include flag football, soccer, basketball (full court and 3-on-3), tennis, table tennis, track, baseball, ice hockey, volleyball, swimming, and dance, held at the University of Pittsburgh and other venues throughout Allegheny County. The games are co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center Association of North America, Maccabi World Union, Maccabi Canada, and Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel. Pittsburgh last hosted the Games in 1997.

Previous JCC Maccabi Games have traditionally housed athletes with host families, and this model had limited accommodations, resulting in the exclusion of many athletes. To address this, the 2025 Games will pilot the Campus Games model in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh. The university's facilities will increase capacity by hosting the athletes in campus dormitories. The 2025 Games will feature 1,850 athletes and 400 coaches. A successful event could lead to Pittsburgh hosting again in 2029.

Ms. King further stated the applicant projects total attendance for the 2025 Games at 7,750 people (2,505 local, 165-day trips, and 5,080 overnight stays), with an estimated 10,082 hotel room nights and dorm nights. SP estimates the games will generate direct spending of \$6,073,100. The applicant states the SEF grant is instrumental in ensuring the success of this event. An SEF Program grant of \$75,000 is recommended to be used for Allegheny County athletic venue rentals. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the economic impact, growth potential, international participation, incentive to make Pittsburgh a host city in 2029, and public benefits of strengthening connections within the Jewish Community.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Quatrini stated this is the perfect example of what the funding should be for.



Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION NO. SC049**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh for the JCC Maccabi Campus Games to be held Sunday, August 3, 2025 through Friday, August 8, 2025 at University of Pittsburgh and various other locations throughout Allegheny County, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, Recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$20,000 to Hard Count (“HC”) for the Pittsburgh Flag Football National Qualifier (“PFFNQ”) to be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025 through Sunday, March 30, 2025 at Montour Sports Complex.

Ms. King stated HC is a non-profit organization formed in 2016 to educate, encourage, and strengthen youth players into premier athletes and exceptional people. HC is seeking funding to support its PFFNQ. The PFFNQ is an annual youth flag football tournament for boys and girls ages 6 to 16, featuring 137 games in pool play and single-elimination brackets. Games are played in two 12-minute halves with a one-minute halftime. The 2025 qualifier will mark the third year of this event.

Previously, the tournament was held as a one-day event. In 2023, it featured 34 teams, with 29 of them traveling from over 50 miles away and requiring hotel rooms. In 2024, the event grew to 47 teams, with 10 on the waitlist, while 42 teams came from over 50 miles away and required hotel rooms. The 2025 qualifier event will be expanding into a two-day tournament, expecting over 60 teams, with 89% of those teams requiring hotel rooms. The total budget for this event is projected at \$45,555, with an anticipated net profit of \$18,455. The applicant indicates earnings from the event will go back into the organization to help support additional youth events. HC projects total attendance for the 2025 tournament at 2,113 people (212 local and 1,901 overnight stays), with an estimated 300 hotel room nights. SP estimates the tournament will generate direct spending of \$1,005,509.

Ms. King further stated the applicant notes the SEF grant is essential to keep the event affordable for participants and to help cover the high venue costs, as the Pittsburgh location is approximately three times more expensive than other locations, with costs further increased by expanding to a two-day format. An SEF Program grant of \$20,000 is recommended to be used for venue rental and referee fees. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the economic impact, event growth potential, and keeping the event affordable for participants.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. SC050**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$20,000 to Hard Count for the Pittsburgh Flag Football National Qualifier to be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025 through Sunday, March 30, 2025 at Montour Sports Complex, pursuant to a

grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$40,000 to Alpha Tournament Company (“ATC”) for the ATC Pittsburgh Tournament Series to be held Friday, October 11, 2024, through Monday, February 17, 2025, at Alpha Ice Complex and Shadyside Academy.

Ms. King stated ATC is a for-profit organization established in 2019 that aims to create an optimal environment for teams, individuals, and families to gather, compete, and enjoy the sport of ice hockey. ATC is seeking funding to support its 2024-2025 Pittsburgh Tournament Series, which comprises youth ice hockey tournaments for ages 4 to 18. The 2023-2024 series featured 387 teams across six tournaments, and the 2024-2025 series anticipates approximately 500 teams participating in nine tournaments.

The applicant is seeking funding for six of its 2024-2025 tournaments, scheduled to begin on October 11, 2024, and run through February 17, 2025. The six-tournament series will consist of approximately 1,222 games at various locations in and around Allegheny County. Of these 810 games, (66%) will occur in Allegheny County at the Alpha Ice Complex and Shadyside Academy, while 412 games (34%) will be played outside the county. All hotel room nights will be within Allegheny County, and only expenses incurred in the county will be eligible for funding under the SEF Grant. The smaller tournaments are expected to host around 50 teams, while the larger tournaments may involve up to 150 teams.

The budget is projected at \$683,000, with an anticipated net profit of \$62,000. The applicant has indicated earnings from the event will be reinvested into the company to enhance advertising efforts and increase staffing levels. The applicant projects total attendance for the 2024-2025 series to be 34,848 people (15,848 local attendees, 5,550 day-trip visitors, and 13,500 overnight stays), with an estimated 5,000 hotel room nights in Allegheny County. SP estimates that the series will generate direct spending of \$8,472,886.

Ms. King further stated the event would proceed without the SEF grant. However, the funding will enable the company to expand its advertising efforts and increase its internal staffing by hiring additional personnel to manage the growing tournament series and increasing the number of referees, EMTs, and scorekeepers. An SEF Program grant of \$40,000 is recommended to be used for the cost of Alpha Ice Complex and Shadyside Academy ice venue rentals. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the economic impact and potential growth.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. SC051**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$40,000 to Alpha Tournament Company for the ATC Pittsburgh Tournament Series to be held Friday, October 11, 2024 through Monday, February 17, 2025 at Alpha Ice Complex and Shadyside Academy, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$9,250 to Three Rivers Rowing Association (“TRA”) for the Pittsburgh Indoor Sprints to be held Friday, January 31, 2025, through Saturday, February 1, 2025, at the DLCC.

Ms. King stated TRA is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 to develop and deliver safe, sustainable, and inclusive programs and events teaching and promoting rowing and paddling sports to the Pittsburgh community. TRA is seeking funding to support its annual Pittsburgh Indoor Sprints, a rowing event conducted on rowing machines. This event caters to athletes from middle school through adulthood, with race categories accommodating all experience levels and abilities, including individuals with disabilities. The TRA has been hosting this annual event for over 20 years. The 2024 event was held for the first time at the DLCC and partnered with US Rowing (“USR”) to be the hub location for the USR Indoor National Championships. This partnership expanded the event’s reach within USR’s global network, increasing entries and out-of-town participants.

The event is anticipated to return to the DLCC, pending venue availability. TRA has applied for Pittsburgh as a 2025 USR Indoor National Championships hub. The applicant will be notified of the decision in early October. USR has indicated if awarded the event, TRA can enter a two-year contract to host the 2025 and 2026 USR Indoor National Championships. The success of the 2025 event could also position TRA as a strong candidate for hosting the 2026 or 2027 World Indoor Rowing Championships in Pittsburgh.

The projected budget for the 2025 event is \$19,431, with an anticipated net profit of \$10,318. Profits from the event will be allocated to athlete scholarships, facility improvements, and other initiatives to ensure continued accessibility, safety, and sustainability within the

southwestern Pennsylvania community. The projected attendance for the 2025 event is 1,013 people (970 local and 43 from out of town), with an estimated 12 hotel room nights and an anticipated economic impact of \$11,060. The applicant states the SEF grant will offset the rising venue expenses associated with this event.

Ms. King further stated an SEF Program grant of \$9,250 is recommended for DLCC staffing and venue rental costs. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the event's growth potential, allows for adaptive participation, and will help leverage TRA's proposal to host the 2026 or 2027 World Indoor Rowing Championships in Pittsburgh.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION NO. SC052**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$9,250 to Three Rivers Rowing Association for the Pittsburgh Indoor Sprints to be held Friday, January 31, 2025 through Saturday, February 1, 2025 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF program grant in the amount of \$35,000 to GK Sports ("GK") for the 2025 Nike Steel City Boys Championships to be held Friday, February 7, 2025, through Sunday, February 9, 2025, at the DLCC.

Ms. King stated GK is a for-profit organization established in 2017 aiming to provide high-quality events attracting participants from over ten states and Canada to Pittsburgh. GK is seeking funding to support its 2025 Nike Steel City Boys Championships. This two-day boys' volleyball tournament, for ages 10 to 18, guarantees each team five matches—three on the first day and two on the second. The applicant previously received funding during the SEF 2022 Round 2 grant cycle for their 2023 Nike Steel City Freeze (“NSCF”) event, a two-day volleyball competition for both girls and boys. In their 2022 application, the applicant predicted the 2023 event would attract 11,900 attendees and generate 3,197 hotel room nights, and SP anticipated an economic impact of \$2.8 million. The post-event closeout reports confirmed the event exceeded these goals, with 12,795 attendees, 3,912 hotel room nights, and an economic impact of \$3.5 million.

The applicant has hosted the NSCF event in Pittsburgh since 2015. The 2025 tournament will be the second year for the boy's specific tournament. The 2024 boys' tournament featured 244 teams and occupied Halls A, D, and E of the DLCC. The 2025 tournament anticipates approximately 400 teams and will utilize Halls A-E. The projected budget for the 2025 event is \$233,499, with an anticipated net profit of \$289,449. Profits from the event will be allocated towards future contract deposits and disbursed to owners as profit shares.

The applicant projects total attendance for the 2025 tournament at 7,290 people (1,075 local, 120-day trips, and 6,095 overnight stays), with an estimated 3,800 hotel room nights. SP estimates the tournament will generate direct spending of \$2,849,487. The DLCC noted this is a beneficial event for the facility and downtown hotels, mainly as early February is considered a "need time" for the DLCC and local hotels. The applicant stated the event would proceed without the SEF grant. However, the funding will enhance the current event, ensuring the event can stay in Pittsburgh while offsetting the significantly higher labor costs than other cities. The applicant

reports labor expenses in Pittsburgh are approximately ten times greater than a non-union labor city.

Ms. King further stated an SEF Program grant of \$35,000 is recommended to be used for DLCC venue rental and other venue-billed operation expenses. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for funding for the economic impact, the event occurs in a hard to fill period in the tourism calendar, and this will help to retain a major event that has growth potential.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Quatrini asked about the profits being distributed to owners.

Ms. King stated it's for the profit shares.

Mr. Quatrini asked who the owners were.

Ms. King stated she has the owner names but did not have them in front of her.

Senator Costa asked if these funds were going to the owners.

Mr. Hanson stated the funds are not going into the owners' pockets; the funds will subsidize costs at the DLCC.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

### **RESOLUTION NO. SC053**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$35,000 to GK Sports for the 2025 Nike Steel City Boys Championships to be held Friday, February 7, 2025 through Sunday, February 9, 2025 at the David L Lawrence Convention Center, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All



resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF program grant in the amount of \$40,000 to GK for the 2025 Nike Steel City Freeze to be held Friday, January 31, 2025, through Sunday, February 2, 2025, at the DLCC.

Ms. King stated GK is a for-profit organization established in 2017, aims to provide high-quality events that attract participants from over 10 states and Canada to Pittsburgh. GK is seeking funding to support its 2025 NSCF. This two-day girls' volleyball tournament, for ages 10 to 18, guarantees each team five matches—three on the first day and two on the second.

The applicant previously received funding during the SEF 2022 Round 2 grant cycle for their 2023 NSCF event, a two-day volleyball competition for both girls and boys. In their 2022 application, the applicant predicted that the 2023 event would attract 11,900 attendees and generate 3,197 hotel room nights, and SP anticipated an economic impact of \$2.8 million. The post-event closeout reports confirmed that the event exceeded these goals, with 12,795 attendees, 3,912 hotel room nights, and an economic impact of \$3.7 million.

The applicant has hosted the NSCF event in Pittsburgh since 2015. The 2024 girls' tournament featured 397 teams, and the 2025 anticipates approximately 415 teams and will utilize the DLCC Exhibition Halls A-E. The projected budget for the 2025 event is \$253,449, with an anticipated net profit of \$274,551. Profits from the event will be allocated towards future contract deposits and disbursed to owners as profit shares. The applicant projects total attendance for the 2025 tournament at 12,795 people (4,210 local, 745-day trips, and 7,840 overnight stays), with an estimated 3,900 hotel room nights. SP estimates that the tournament will generate direct spending

of \$3,697,250. The DLCC noted this is a beneficial event for the facility and downtown hotels, particularly as early February is considered a "need time" for the DLCC and local hotels.

Ms. King further stated per the applicant the event would proceed without the SEF grant. However, the funding will enhance the current event, ensuring the event will stay in Pittsburgh while offsetting the significantly higher labor costs than other cities. The applicant reports that labor expenses in Pittsburgh are approximately ten times greater than those hosted in a non-union labor city. An SEF Program grant of \$40,000 is recommended for DLCC venue rental and other venue-billed operation expenses. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for funding for the economic impact, the event occurs in a hard to fill period in the tourism calendar, and this will help to retain and continue a major event that has growth potential.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION NO. SC054**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$40,000 to GK Sports for the 2025 Nike Steel City Freeze to be held Friday, January 31, 2025 through Sunday, February 2, 2025 at the David L Lawrence Convention Center, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF program grant in the amount of \$30,000 to Friends of Pittsburgh Professional Soccer ("FPPS") for

the Riverhounds Soccer Club (SC) Three Rivers College Showcase to be held Friday, December 13, 2024, through Sunday, December 15, 2024, at the Montour Junction Sports Complex.

Ms. King stated FPPS is a non-profit organization established in 2016 to connect youth to nontraditional sports through scholarships and facility development. FPPS is seeking funding to support the Riverhounds SC Three Rivers College Showcase. The events will be held at Montour Junction Sports Complex, which FPPS owns and operates, with the Pittsburgh Riverhounds, a related entity, running them.

FPPS previously received funding during the SEF 2022 Round 2 grant cycle for three Riverhounds soccer tournaments, one the 2022 Riverhounds SC Three Rivers College Showcase. The 2022 event was a two-day soccer tournament, with one day for boys and the other for girls. In their 2022 application, the applicant predicted the 2022 event would attract 160 teams, 80 on both days. The event fell short of this goal, attracting 35 teams for the girls' event and 23 for the boys' event for 58 teams. Of the 58 teams, 18 (31%) were not from Pittsburgh, PA.

The tournament began in 2021 and ran in 2022 and 2023. In 2023, the event was changed to a one-day tournament and experienced similar participation to the 2023 event, with 58 teams. The 2024 event is anticipated to grow to 72 teams and be a three-day event. The 2024 Riverhounds SC Three Rivers College Showcase will be 11 on 11 soccer matches, allowing high school-aged players to be scouted and recruited by colleges. Every team is guaranteed three games. The projected budget for the 2024 event is \$82,302, with an anticipated net profit of \$10,198. The applicant projects total attendance for the 2024 event at 6,456 people (4,080 local, 342-day trips, and 2,052 overnight stays), with an estimated 492 hotel room nights. SP estimates the tournament will generate direct spending of \$1,211,496.

Ms. King further stated the event would proceed without the SEF grant. However, the funding will allow FPPS to continue running tournaments in the future. Currently, the tournament has not reached a financial break-event. An SEF Program grant of \$30,000 is recommended to cover costs for referees, field marshals, trainers, and venue rental. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for funding for the economic impact and for helping the event grow.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION NO. SC055**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$30,000 to Friends of Pittsburgh Professional Soccer for the Riverhounds SC Three Rivers College Showcase to be held Friday, December 13, 2024 through Sunday, December 15, 2024 at the Montour Junction Sports Complex, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$35,000 to the Pittsburgh Squash Racquets Association (“PSRA”) for the Pittsburgh Open to be held Wednesday, February 12, 2025, through Sunday, February 16, 2025, at the Rivers Club and Steel City Squash.

Ms. King stated PSRA is a non-profit organization formed in 1988 to support and expand the sport of squash in and around the City of Pittsburgh. They host an annual amateur tournament,

while simultaneously hosting a professional tournament. PSRA also hosts junior's and women's clinics to help participants enter the world of squash. The clinics are taught by internationally renowned coaches who travel to Pittsburgh to teach and meet with international players. The applicant describes the event (referred to as "The Pittsburgh Open") as a professional tournament hosting 24 players from around the world. The winners receive cash prizes and points accrued toward their professional ranking. 200 fans attend over four days to watch practices and match play. The amateur tournament hosts 75+ players of all genders, ages, and abilities from Western PA, surrounding states, and Canada.

The tournament is held at the Rivers Club in Oxford Center, Pittsburgh, and Larimer's new Steel City Squash facility. The Rivers Club can accommodate up to 100 spectators at a time. The four squash courts in the gymnasium are directly opposite a basketball court, with bleachers between the main squash court and the basketball court. At the Steel City Squash facility, the first fully dedicated squash venue in the area, attendees can experience matches on a world-class glass court, offering unparalleled viewing experiences for spectators and players. The 2025 tournament will be the first to feature this highly anticipated glass court.

PSRA was previously awarded an \$18,500 SEF Program grant in the 2022 Round 2 cycle for the 2023 Pittsburgh Open. According to their post-event closeout reports, the 2023 event attracted 642 attendees, including 105 participants, 22 staff members, and 515 spectators, resulting in 58 hotel room nights in Allegheny County. SP estimated the event's economic impact at \$75,119. The final Event Revenue and Expense Statement for 2023 reported total expenses of \$135,052.36 and total revenue of \$160,830.31, resulting in a net profit of \$25,777.95.

Ms. King continued in the SEF 2023 Round 2 grant cycle, PSRA received a \$30,000 SEF Program grant for the 2024 Pittsburgh Open. Despite falling short of their attendance goals, the

2024 event attracted 652 attendees (out of a projected 730), including 89 participants, 23 staff members, and 540 spectators. The event generated 116 hotel room nights, falling short of the projected 200. SP estimated the economic impact at \$95,000. The final Event Revenue and Expense Statement for 2024 reported total expenses of \$109,892.13 and total revenue of \$141,048.66, resulting in a net profit of \$31,156.53.

The Professional Squash Association (“PSA”), the governing body for the men's and women's international professional squash circuit, sanctioned the tournament. PSA tournaments are segmented into four categories: Platinum (\$180K - \$300K purse), Gold (\$110K - \$120K purse), Silver (\$71K - \$85K purse), and Bronze (\$50K - \$55K purse). In 2023, with the support of the SEF Grant, PSRA elevated the tournament from the bronze level to the silver level, which they maintained for the 2024 tournament. Higher tournament levels attract higher-ranked professionals and are expected to increase international interest via traditional and social media outlets. The 2025 tournament will also be a Silver-level event, as PSA has already scheduled the 2025 Pittsburgh Open at this level. PSRA is optimistic about reaching the gold level in 2026, especially with the new glass court available. Additionally, PSRA is in discussions with PSA about hosting a women’s tournament in 2026.

The event has the potential to increase local public awareness of squash, contributing to the growth of the sport. As a PSA-sanctioned event, it could also draw international attention to Pittsburgh. The projected budget for the 2025 event is \$152,200, with an anticipated net profit of \$24,800. The applicant projects total attendance of 673 for the 2025 event (585 local attendees, 10 day-trip visitors, and 78 overnight stays), with an estimated 120 hotel room nights. SP estimates that the tournament will generate direct spending of \$67,872.

Ms. King further stated an SEF Program grant of \$35,000 is recommended, to cover costs for master of ceremonies, medical, referees, SquashTV, venue rental, website hosting, printing, PSA Registration fees, signage, and insurance. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the event's expected growth, international presence and broadcast, and the potential of getting a women's tournament in 2026.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION NO. SC056**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$35,000 to the Pittsburgh Squash Racquets Association for the Pittsburgh Open to be held Wednesday, February 12, 2025, through Sunday, February 16, 2025, at the Rivers Club and Steel City Squash, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$30,000 to Three River Rowing Association ("TPRA") for the Head of the Ohio Regatta ("HOTR") to be held Friday, October 4, 2024, through Sunday, October 6, 2024, at Washington's Landing and the Allegheny River. an SEF

Ms. King stated TPRA is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 to develop and deliver safe, sustainable, and inclusive programs and events teaching and promoting rowing and paddling

sports to the Pittsburgh community. TPRA is requesting funds for the HOTR, one of the largest fall rowing competitions in the country. The HOTR is a two-day event attracting rowers of all ages and skill levels, including youth, adult, adaptive, and collegiate rowers. Beyond being a rowing competition, the HOTR celebrates recreation along Pittsburgh's riverfront, both on and off the water. The HOTR's broad appeal draws participants and spectators across the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and southern Canada.

In the SEF 2023 Round 2 grant cycle, TPRA received \$20,000 in funding for their 2024 event, which covered costs related to safety boats, EMT services, PA resources, and venue-related expenses. The event exceeded its attendance goals, reaching 5,443 attendees compared to a target of 4,035, and surpassed its hotel room night target, achieving 2,348 nights versus the projected 320. The event also saw growth in participation, with 556 crews, 1,567 athletes, and 84 events in 2023. For 2024, the event plans to host 565 crews, 1,600 athletes, and 90 events.

The 2024 HOTR, marking its 38th anniversary, will be held from Friday, October 4, 2024, through Sunday, October 6, 2024, at Washington's Landing and the Allegheny River, spanning between mile markers 0.0 and 3.5. This year, TPRA has added a PNC Park Spectator Zone and the Lottie McAlice Championship Challenge, where the top 10 finishers will compete in a final race. The budget for the event is \$114,410, with an anticipated net profit of \$11,090. The applicant projects total attendance for the 2024 event at 5,315 (2,525 local, 80-day trips, 2,710 overnight stays) with 1,392 hotel room nights. SP estimates a direct spending of \$2,343,867.

Ms. King further stated the applicant notes that the event will proceed without the SEF Grant; however, it will face challenges in breaking even. Profits from the event will be allocated to athlete scholarships, facility improvements, and other initiatives to ensure continued accessibility, safety, and sustainability within the southwestern Pennsylvania community. The SEF



Program grant of \$30,000 is recommended for safety boats, EMT/River rescue services, support from the PA Resource Council, and venue-related expenses (tents, chairs, & portable restrooms). The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the economic impact and adaptive participants.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION NO. SC057**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$30,000 to Three River Rowing Association for the Head of the Ohio Regatta to be held Friday, October 4, 2024 through Sunday, October 6, 2024 at Washington's Landing and the Allegheny River, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Premier Rugby Sevens ("PRS") for a PRS Steel City Event to be held Monday, July 7, 2025, through Sunday, July 13, 2025, to be held at the Highmark Stadium.

Ms. King stated PRS is a for-profit organization formed in 2021 to promote a professional level of rugby sevens in the United States. PRS requests funding to support its eastern conferences for the Pittsburgh tournament tour stop. This conference consists of four franchises. A franchise is made up of a women's and a men's team. The Eastern Conference franchises include Pittsburgh

Steel Toes, Southern Headliners, New York Locals, and The Texas Team. The players will come from the United States, New Zealand, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Australia, South Africa, and Europe.

PRS is a condensed version of rugby and is a format prominently featured in the Olympic Games. USA Rugby, the national governing body for rugby in the US, sanctions the game. USA Rugby has been awarded the Men's World Cup in 2031 and the Women's World Cup in 2033, and Pittsburgh is one of 30 cities vying to be a host city. PRS received a \$70,000 SEF Program grant during the SEF 2022-2 grant cycle. This grant was allocated to cover the rental and operational expenses of Highmark Stadium, along with necessary venue enhancements and/or training facility costs for their 2023 event. Ultimately, this inaugural event fell short of its goals, with 1,736 attendees out of the projected 4,640. PRS was awarded a \$75,000 grant in 2023-2 for a 2024 event that did not occur due to the Olympics taking place this summer. SEF staff recommended they reapply this round. There is a board item to rescind the 2023 Round 2 grant later in the agenda.

The 2025 competition is to be held Monday, July 7, 2025, through Sunday, July 13, 2025, at Highmark Stadium. The event will feature eight games, with each participating team participating in two matches. Each match will be divided into two 7-minute halves. In preparation for the competition, the participating teams will arrive five days in advance for training sessions, gym sessions, and team-building activities. These training sessions will also be held within Allegheny County. Additionally, there will be community engagement activities during the training period, including local clinics and collaborations with youth organizations. The budget for the event is \$334,365, with an anticipated net loss of (\$34,380).

Ms. King further stated the applicant projects the event to generate approximately 4,885 attendees (2,505 local, 2,000-day trips, 380 overnight stays) with 950 hotel room nights. SP

estimates a direct spending of \$668,772. An SEF Program grant of \$75,000 is recommended to be used for stadium labor, field painting & removal, tents, bike rack rentals, stadium rent, training field rent, and marketing. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the economic impact, international player participation, community engagement activities, local clinics, and youth organization support, and gain experience for potential host city World Cup bid submissions, 2031-Men and 2033-Women.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Quatrini asked if there is a date on when the host cities will be determined.

Ms. King stated not currently but will follow up with SP and report back to the board.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. SC058**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to Premier Rugby Sevens for a Premier Rugby Sevens Steel City Event to be held Monday July 7, 2025 through Sunday, July 13, 2025 to be held at the Highmark Stadium, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$50,000 to Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon Inc. ("P3R") for the

DICK's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon ("DPM") to be held Friday, May 2, 2025, through Sunday, May 4, 2025, on the streets of Pittsburgh.

Ms. King stated P3R is a non-profit organization founded in 2008 to run various high-quality races of various distances, as well as events and award-winning health and fitness programs throughout Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. P3R requests funding to support its DPM and Pittsburgh Health and Fitness Expo ("PHFE"). The DPM was initially held annually from 1985 to 2003. After a five-year hiatus, P3R relaunched the event in 2009, and it has grown each year since. What began as a single race day has evolved into a weekend of events for the whole family, attracting more than 30,000 participants annually.

In the SEF 2023 Round 2 grant cycle, P3R received \$50,000 in funding for their 2024 marathon. The event met its economic impact goal of \$13.4 million and achieved 14,567 hotel room nights. However, it fell short of its attendee goal of 336,388, reaching only 121,803 due to conflicting SP and Pittsburgh Public Safety estimates. The organization also received two SEF grants: \$45,000 in 2023-2 and \$45,000 in 2024-1. The 2024 event featured 42,000 runners and reported 14,567 hotel room nights. The 2025 event expects over 38,000 runners and 12,500 room nights. The applicant plans to expand the PHFE to 70,000 attendees.

The DPM and PHFE will be held from Friday, May 2, 2025, through Sunday, May 4, 2025, throughout the streets of Downtown Pittsburgh. The PHFE will take place at the DLCC. The DPM offers runners and walkers of all ages and abilities the opportunity to participate in a marathon, half-marathon, marathon relay, 5K, one-mile kids' race, toddler trot, and pet walk. Participants will travel 26.2 miles through 14 Pittsburgh neighborhoods, cheered on by more than 300,000 spectators. The budget for the event is \$5,172,000, with an anticipated net profit of \$15,000.

Ms. King further stated the applicant projects the event to generate approximately 115,375 attendees (94,368 local, 14,850-day trips, 6,157 overnight stays) with 12,500 hotel room nights. SP estimates direct spending of \$13,838,056. The applicant states the event will proceed without SEF funding; however, the grant would allow P3R to focus on elevating the experience at the PHFE. The SEF Program grant of \$50,000 is recommended to cover costs for police, EMS, and public works. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the economic impact and use of the DLCC, and it's an international event.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION NO. SC059**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$50,000 to Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon Inc. for the DICK's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon to be held Friday, May 2, 2025 through Sunday, May 4, 2025 on the streets of Pittsburgh, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$74,000 to 3Step Sports LLC ("3SS") for 2025 Hoop Group Pitt Jam Fest to be held Friday, April 11, 2025, through Sunday, April 13, 2025, at the DLCC, Mt. Lebanon High School, and RIZE Sports.

Ms. King stated 3SS is the parent company of Hoop Group Elite, a for-profit organization. Since 1963, Hoop Group has been a comprehensive basketball company dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of players, coaches, and parents by providing the best instruction, competition, and exposure. 3SS is seeking funding support for its 2025 Hoop Group Pitt Jam Fest. The Pitt Jam Fest is a youth basketball tournament for high school and middle schoolers ages 10 to 18. The event has been running since 2006 in the City of Pittsburgh and has been held at the DLCC since 2016. The event includes a free Thursday night clinic for 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders (both boys and girls) from Pittsburgh Public Schools.

In the SEF 2022 Round 2 grant cycle, 3SS was awarded a \$75,000 grant to support DLCC facility rental, operational expenses, and equipment purchases/rentals for the 2023 event. Initially, the event was predicted to attract 14,800 attendees, generate 3,513 hotel room nights, and create an economic impact of \$10.3 million. However, the final report showed the event fell short of these goals, with 10,840 attendees, 5,750 participants (610 teams), 90 staff, and 5,000 spectators occupying 2,628 Allegheny County hotel room nights. SP estimated the actual economic impact at \$5,706,348. The 2023 event's total expense was \$616,396, with revenue totaling \$788,919, resulting in a net profit of \$172,523. These profits were reinvested into 3SS to support 25-30 additional summer events across the Atlantic and Mid-West Regions, enabling student-athletes to showcase their talents to college coaches, fans, and spectators.

In the SEF 2024 Round 1 grant cycle, 3SS was awarded a \$74,000 SEF grant for similar DLCC-related expenses. The 2024 event experienced a decline in attendance compared to the 2023 event, largely due to the event falling outside of the NCAA live recruiting period. 3SS introduced a new middle school component to the tournament to mitigate this impact. The 2024 event was initially predicted to attract 7,660 attendees and generate 1,357 hotel room nights. SP estimated an

economic impact of \$2.8 million. However, the event exceeded these projections with 8,925 attendees and 2,340 hotel room nights. SP estimated the actual economic impact at \$6.2 million. For the 2025 event, 3SS expects similar participation to the 2024 event, with over 600 teams utilizing 48 courts. The event's budget is \$618,500, with an anticipated net profit of \$101,500. Profits will be reinvested into the company to sustain future tournaments and help fund Hoop Group's basketball facility in Neptune, NJ.

Ms. King further stated the 2025 event is expected to have the same participation as the 2024 event, with more than 600 teams utilizing 48 courts. The applicant projects a total attendance of 7,660 for the 2025 event (1,350 local, 1,780-day trips, 4,530 overnight stays) with 2,500 hotel room nights. SP estimates a direct spending of \$6,725,623. The DLCC reports this event is good for the building and the downtown hotels. The DLCC also reports that other destinations have shown interest in luring the event away from Pittsburgh (e.g., Columbus, OH, or other similar locations). An SEF Program grant of \$74,000 is recommended for to cover DLCC venue rental and DLCC labor costs. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for its economic impact and use of the DLCC.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION NO. SC060**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board that an SEF grant in the amount of \$74,000 be provided to 3Step Sports LLC for 2025 Hoop Group Pitt Jam Fest to be held Friday, April 11, 2025, through Sunday, April 13, 2025, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Mt. Lebanon High School and RIZE Sports, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided, and further that

the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$30,000 to Break the Chains Wrestling (“BTC”) for West Penn Duals (“WPD”) to be held Saturday, November 9, 2025, through November 10, 2025, at the Monroeville Convention and Events Center (“MCEC”).

Ms. King stated BTC is a for-profit organization founded in 2020 to provide an outlet for youth wrestling to continue during the COVID-19 pandemic. BTC offers diverse opportunities for competition across various skill levels for male and female amateur youth wrestlers. BTC is seeking funding to support its WPD. The WPD is an amateur youth folk-style wrestling tournament for male and female participants ages 5 to 18. The event has been taking place since 2012. This year, the event will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2025, through Sunday, November 20, 2025, at the MCEC. This will be the third year the event has been held at the MCEC.

In the SEF 2023 Round 2 grant cycle, BTC was awarded a \$30,000 SEF grant for two youth wrestling tournaments in 2023, one being the WPD. The 2023 events were initially predicted to attract 3,370 attendees (46 teams) and generate 500 hotel room nights. SP estimated an economic impact of \$612,294. However, the event exceeded these projections with 5,552 attendees and 530 hotel room nights. SP estimated the actual economic impact at \$830,790. The applicant states BTC expects the tournaments to grow compared to previous years. In 2022, WPD had 38 teams on 16 mats. The 2023 tournament had 64 teams on 30 mats, and the 2024 tournament is anticipating 68



to 72 teams on 30 to 34 mats. The event's budget is \$94,180, with an anticipated net profit of \$1,370.

Ms. King further stated without the SEF grant, this growth might not be possible. BTC states that without the grant, the organization may be unable to afford the MCEC or the additional mat rentals. A \$30,000 SEF Program grant is recommended for the venue, referees, and mat rental costs. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for its economic impact and event growth potential.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved:

**RESOLUTION NO. SC061**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$30,000 to Break The Chains Wrestling for West Penn Duals to be held Saturday, November 9, 2025 through November 10, 2025, at the Monroeville Convention and Events Center, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$60,000 to SuperSeriesAAA, LLC (“SS”) for the Pittsburgh Showcase 2025 to be held Friday, January 3, 2025, through Sunday, January 5, 2025, at the Alpha Ice Complex, Ice Castle Arena, and UPMC Events Center.

Ms. King stated SS is a for-profit organization established in 2016, dedicated to hosting ice hockey tournaments and providing college preparation workshops for athletes, regardless of their chosen sport. SS is seeking funding for the Pittsburgh Showcase 2025, including two hockey tournaments: the Elite Prospects Cup Series (“EPCS”) and the Pittsburgh Showcase.

These tournaments will feature 120 hockey teams and are considered international events. Of these teams, no more than 20 are local or within an hour's drive, while the remaining 100 teams are from regions beyond driving distance, including Canada (Toronto and Edmonton), Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania (eastern border), Tennessee, Texas, and Washington. Each team will play at least four games at the 15O, 16U, and 18U levels and at least five games for teams in the 14U and younger categories. The tournaments will be held from Friday, January 3, 2025, through Sunday, January 5, 2025, at the Alpha Ice Complex, Ice Castle Arena, UPMC Events Center, and various other venues outside Allegheny County. All hotel stays will be within Allegheny County, and only expenses incurred within the county will be eligible for funding under the SEF Grant. This will be the 4th year for this showcase.

In the SEF 2023 Round 2 grant cycle, SS was awarded a \$60,000 SEF grant for the 2024 Pittsburgh Showcase. The tournaments initially predicted 3,414 attendees and 2,000 hotel room nights, with SP estimating an economic impact of \$2,629,891. However, the event exceeded these projections, attracting 4,549 attendees and generating 2,070 hotel room nights. SP estimated the actual economic impact at \$2,080,462. SS was also awarded two \$75,000 SEF grants in the 2024 Round 1 grant cycle for separate hockey tournaments, though these grants have yet to be closed. The 2025 Pittsburgh Showcase is anticipated to feature 92 teams, with 13 local or within an hour's drive. The showcase will also include workshops and educational sessions on topics such as

college financial preparation, college hockey and sports (including club involvement, DI/DII/DIII sports), and other educational opportunities. These sessions will be open to the public and advertised for wider attendance. The event's budget is \$300,250, with an anticipated net profit of \$4,750.

Ms. King further stated the applicant projects the EPCS and Pittsburgh Showcase will generate approximately 3,917 attendees (640 local, 62-day trips, 3,215 overnight stays) with 2,000 hotel room nights. SP estimates a direct spending of \$1,960,602. The applicant states that without SEF funding, the tournaments may not be able to occur at the same or an elevated level due to the high cost of ice rental in Pittsburgh, which could result in a negative net profit and impact the ability to host the event in Pittsburgh. An SEF Program grant of \$60,000 is recommended to be used for venue ice rental fees. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the economic impact and potential of hosting an international hockey event in Pittsburgh.

Before voting, Ms. Tracey McCants-Lewis recused herself from voting on this agenda item.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and with one recusal, the following resolution was approved:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. SC062**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$60,000 to SuperSeriesAAA, LLC for the Pittsburgh Showcase 2025 to be held Friday, January 3, 2025 through Sunday, January 5, 2025 at the Alpha Ice Complex, Ice Castle Arena, and UPMC Events Center, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and

purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (“FIRST”) for the FIRST Robotics Competition Greater Pittsburgh Regional to be held Wednesday, March 19, 2025, through Saturday, March 22, 2025, at the DLCC.

Ms. King stated FIRST is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 to create accessible and innovative science, technology, engineering, and math programs that inspire youth to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills. FIRST is requesting funding to support the FIRST Robotics Competition Greater Pittsburgh Regional. The 2025 FIRST Robotics Competition Greater Pittsburgh Regional will be held from Wednesday, March 19, 2025, through Saturday, March 22, 2025, at the DLCC. Students in grades 9-12 will be challenged to design and build industrial-size robots to compete in complex field games, working in alliance with other teams. The four-day event will include team check-ins, robot inspections, practice matches, qualification matches, and final championship matches. This marks the 23rd year of the event, and the second year it will be hosted at the DLCC.

In the SEF 2023 Round 2 grant cycle, FIRST was awarded a \$75,000 SEF grant for the 2024 competition. The event originally projected 2,360 attendees and 1,500 hotel room nights, with SP estimating an economic impact of \$1,578,240. However, the 2024 competition exceeded expectations, drawing 3,676 attendees (50 teams) and generating 2,985 hotel room nights, resulting in an estimated economic impact of \$1,562,326. The 2025 FIRST Robotics Competition is anticipated to draw 52 to 68 teams from across the United States. The 2025 event's budget is

\$293,000, with an anticipated net loss of (\$147,000). The applicant projects the 2025 FIRST Robotics Competition will generate approximately 3,900 attendees (2430 local, 260-day trips, 1,240 overnight stays) with 3,000 hotel room nights. SP estimates direct spending of \$1,595,223.

Ms. King further stated the applicant has stated that without SEF funding, the competition may need to relocate due to the higher financial burden of hosting at the DLCC compared to its previous venue at California University of Pennsylvania's Convention Center. The SEF Program grant of \$75,000 is recommended for the DLCC venue and operating fees. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for the economic impact and use of the DLCC.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions.

Senator Fontana asked what takes place in these competitions.

Ms. King stated the competitors build robots and compete in floor games.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and with one recusal, the following resolution was approved:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. SC063**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$75,000 to For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology for the FIRST Robotics Competition Greater Pittsburgh Regional to be held Wednesday, March 19, 2025 through Saturday, March 22, 2025 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa continued to the next item on the agenda, recommendation of an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$50,000 to Basketball Stars of America (“BSA”) for the BSA 2025 Spring Tournament Circuit to be held Friday, February 28, 2025, through Sunday, May 18, 2025, at North Allegheny schools (Wexford/Pittsburgh), All-American Fieldhouse (Monroeville), and Pittsburgh Sports Complex (New Kensington).

Ms. King stated BSA is a for-profit organization established in 2007 to offer developmental and competitive Amateur Athletic Union basketball programs for boys and girls in Western Pennsylvania. BSA is requesting funding to support its 2025 Spring Basketball Tournament Circuit. The 2025 Spring Circuit will consist of 11 weekend basketball tournaments for boys and girls aged 8 to 18. The events will occur from February 28, 2025, through May 18, 2025, at various locations across Allegheny County. Between 100 and 200 teams are expected to compete each weekend, with more than half of the teams traveling from over an hour away. BSA anticipates that over 1,500 teams will participate in the circuit, which has been held annually since 2008.

In the SEF 2022 Round 1 grant cycle, BSA was awarded an SEF Program grant of \$50,000 (\$10,000 for venues and \$40,000 for team discounts). The final report for the 2022 event indicated a total of 24,550 attendees, including 10,140 participants (1,014 teams) and 14,410 spectators, who generated 2,250 hotel room nights in Allegheny County, resulting in an estimated economic impact of \$4.0 million. The 2022 Event Revenue and Expense Statement reflected total expenses of \$353,500 and total revenue of \$429,000, yielding a net profit of \$75,550. The profits were reinvested into the company for new equipment purchases, facility rentals, and staffing wages. Additionally, the 2022 funding intended for at-risk youth was utilized for multi-team discounts.

In the SEF 2023 Round 1 grant cycle, BSA was awarded an SEF Program grant for \$60,000 for venue rental fees and basketball courts. The event projected 25,230 attendees and 6,364 hotel

room nights, with SP estimating an economic impact of \$4,078,000. The final report for the 2023 event showed that while the attendance goal was met with 29,280 attendees, the event fell short of its hotel room night projection, reaching only 2,900. SP estimated the actual economic impact at approximately \$4,812,750. The 2023 Event Revenue and Expense Statement recorded total expenses of \$554,825 and total revenue of \$574,960, resulting in a net profit of \$20,135.

Ms. King further stated for the 2024 season, BSA will host 1,500 teams (16,000 participants), and for the 2025 season, they anticipate 2,000 teams (17,000 to 18,000 participants). The 2025 season's budget is \$707,500, with an anticipated net profit of \$152,000. Profits from the event will be reinvested into the business to continue building the brand on a national level. The applicant projects the event to generate approximately 52,965 attendees (31,775 local, 8,015-day trips, and 13,175 overnight stays) with 3,500 hotel room nights. SP estimates direct spending of \$8,812,921. BSA has stated that the 2025 funding will help cover increased facility rental fees, provide additional college referees for these tournaments, and enhance marketing efforts. The SEF Program grant of \$50,000 is recommended for venue rental costs in Allegheny County. The grant is recommended to the Sports Commission Board for funding for reasons that include its economic impact.

Senator Costa asked if there were any questions from the board. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. On a motion duly made, seconded, and with one recusal, the following resolution was approved:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. SC064**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the ACT 42 EDTF Restricted Account Programs and Procedures the SEA Sports Commission hereby recommends to the SEA Board an SEF Program grant in the amount of \$50,000 to Basketball Stars of America for the BSA 2025 Spring Tournament Circuit to be held Friday, February 28, 2025 through Sunday, May 18, 2025, at North Allegheny schools

(Wexford/Pittsburgh), All-American Fieldhouse (Monroeville), and Pittsburgh Sports Complex (New Kensington), pursuant to a grant agreement substantially in the form provided; and further that the proper officers and members of the SEA Sports Commission are hereby authorized to do all acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution. All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or rescinded, canceled, or annulled so far as the same affects this resolution.

Senator Costa asked if anyone in the audience desired to address the board.

Mr. McDonald Jr. stated the public was provided with three options for public participation: email, telephone, or the Zoom chat function. No public comments were submitted via email, there were no registrations to submit a public comment via telephone, and no comments were submitted via the Zoom chat function.

Senator Costa asked if there was going to be a press release.

Ms. King confirmed but indicated that it would be released after the Sports & Exhibition Authority board meeting approved the grants. She further provided an update as to the history of the SEF Grant process. Additionally, she noted that the board had been provided with a flyer outlining the history of the program. Ms. King stated since its inception, the SEF Program has awarded approximately \$3.17 million across 62 grants to 34 different organizations. These grants have supported events showcasing over 24 different sports. The funded events have generated an estimated \$200 million in direct spending within Allegheny County.

Senator Costa stated in each press release, there needs to be a running total of what has been granted.

With there being no additional comments or business, Senator Costa asked for a motion to adjourn.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17

A.M.