

Meeting Details

- **Date:** September 23, 2025
 - **Location:** Western Nebraska Sports Council monthly session
 - **Recorder:** David Kiraly (acting secretary for the meeting)
 - **Guests:** Representatives from the *November for Noah* basketball tournament
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Introductions

- Attendees included: Kelly Kiraly (President, WNSC), David Kiraly, Brenda Leisy (Scotts Bluff Visitors Bureau), Chris Spallone (23 Club Baseball), Jeremy Becker (23 Club VP), Matt Baker (Mitchell HS coach), Melissa Price (School Board & Visitors Bureau), Redo and Stacy Celli (November for Noah Board), Jocelyn Kappen (November for Noah), Mrs. Brunner, and others.
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November for Noah Presentation

- **Event Overview:**
 - Youth basketball tournament (2nd–8th grade boys & girls).
 - Originated in 2022 to honor Noah; proceeds fund local scholarships.
 - 2024 event had 33 teams; target growth for 2025 by piggybacking on West Coast 3-on-3 Tournament (Nov 15).
 - **Purpose & Impact:**
 - All proceeds fund student scholarships (\$4K–\$6K awarded annually).
 - Promotes youth officiating development and sportsmanship.
 - Zero-tolerance policy for spectator misconduct.
 - **Operational Notes:**
 - Uses 5 gyms (Scottsbluff HS & MS).
 - 3–4 games per court, 2 refs per game (\$30 each).
 - Registration fee ≈ \$175 early / \$200 regular.
 - Hospitality room for officials (food and refreshments).
 - No admission fee for spectators.
 - **Financial Requests / Needs:**
 - Assistance with referee fees, gym rental, insurance, marketing, and awards.
 - Seeking sponsorship or support from WNSC to enhance the event.
 - Will submit detailed budget for review (ref fees ≈ \$2,400 max if Scottsbluff only).
 - **Growth Goals:**
 - Expand to multi-day tournament similar to Lions Club events.
 - Increase scholarships to 10–20 per year.
 - Attract out-of-town teams (Casper, Cheyenne, Sidney) for overnight stays.
 - Potential merch / participant T-shirts and awards for 1st & 2nd place teams.
 - Long-term scholarship expansion to other schools (beyond Gering & Scottsbluff).
 - **Discussion & Recommendations**
 - **WNSC Members:** Praised the event’s community impact and youth focus.
 - Suggested providing a detailed budget (breakdown of gym fees, awards, hospitality).
 - Recommended marketing coordination with Casper and Kearney sports facilities.
 - Encouraged use of local tourism and lodging grant funding for future expansion.
 - Identified potential help with officiating clinic promotion and marketing assets.
 - WNSC to evaluate possible short-term financial support for 2025 event and larger planning for 2026.
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Logo Approval

- Reviewed updated WNSC logo design (including cycling element).

- Motion by Jeremy Becker, second by Chris Stallone to adopt final design.
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

Event Request / Funding Guidelines

- Discussion on creating a standard **Event Request Form** to clarify:
 - Eligibility criteria and funding limits.
 - Allowable expenses (marketing, insurance, hospitality, ref fees).
 - Avoiding “double-dipping” with existing Tourism Board funds.
- **Tourism Board Representative (Brenda Leisy):**
 - \$30,000 budget earmarked for new sports event startups (under tourism umbrella).
 - Separate from WNSC funds; tourism money focused on heads-in-beds impact.
 - Clarified reporting requirements for any funded event (receipts & post-event summary).
- Consensus to build an **application and review process** for future event requests.

Communications & Website

- Agreement to develop a WNSC website linked to the Visitors Bureau site to:
 - Publicize mission and available support.
 - Host event calendar and application form.
 - Serve as a shared workspace for members (task tracking and updates).
- David Kiraly to continue developing backend framework for collaboration and public portal.

Budget & Oversight

- Current WNSC startup fund allocation: \$30,000.
- Tourism lodging-tax fund reserves ≈ \$900,000 (marketing and capital improvement accounts).
- Clarified commissioner review process for expenditures > \$10,000.
- Emphasis on transparency and documentation for audits.

Motions & Actions Taken

1. **Approved** August meeting minutes.
2. **Adopted** final Sports Council logo.
3. **Requested** detailed budget proposal from November for Noah organizers.
4. **Agreed** to create standardized Event Request Form and funding guidelines.
5. **Directed** development of WNSC website and calendar.
6. **Next Step:** Follow-up contact with Jocelyn Kappen (November for Noah) and submission of budget details.