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<i>Author:</i>	Dr. Rainer 'EXI' Hoenle, IPC World Games Liaison Officer	Agenda ref. -	9
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IPC World Games Liaison Officer 2021-Report venue inspection and information for Plenary meeting 2019 in Lille, France

Birmingham, Alabama, USA, mid-September 2018

Dr. Rainer EXI Hoenle

In the role of the IPC World Games Liaison Officer for the WG 2021 I used the opportunity of being in the USA for checking out suitable venue locations in the Birmingham, AL area

Please draw the essence and conclusion out of this visit from the report, which I did send to representatives of the IPC Bureau and the FAI afterwards.

The extracts are attached. It is worth to mention that the venue is a 20 min drive from the city center and is directly connected to an Interstate Highway exit.

Following this visit I met with Albert Bechtold in Florida, master-mind of the Florida Swoop league to ask him for support to the BOC and to the event itself as the Canopy Piloting CTD.

Extract:

„please accept that I take the freedom to combine my findings out of my visit to Birmingham, AL, location of the TWG 2021 and the conclusions which I have drawn in my role as the appointed World Games Liaison Officer for the event in 2021 in one mail to all concerned. I use the opportunity to introduce each one of us to each other:

1) Steve Mistrot, Sport Director of the TWG 2021 in the BOC (Birmingham Organizing Commission), who arranged the visit locally to all possible locations we had talked about and came to the conclusion that only 2 were suitable for Airsports (Canopy Piloting and Drones). Both are on adjacent parking lots with grass on the Barber Motorsport Park outside the city of Birmingham, beautifully located and easy accessible, home of a racetrack and a museum for race-cars- and race-motorbikes in multitude and perfection. For our Airsports purposes, Lot C seemed to be the selection of choice. On the attached photo this is the smaller lot to the left, which is level, while lot B is declining.

2) Albert Bechtold is an active Canopy Piloting competitor, an expert Course Technical Director, Organiser and Manager of the Florida Swoop League. His experienced in setting up courses and running Canopy Piloting competitions. "Al" in addition to his expertise for me has more than one advantage, He is not only from the US, but he also is close to Alabama and is even closer to have access to ALL material which is needed for such a competition. Starting from the markers, through the cameras, the distance tape, the sensors and also to an US-based CP-Scoring System, which is successfully used in the series of events in FLA and the US elsewhere, having IPC approval (Control Tower). The conditions for use and hire have to be negotiated between Steve and AL, of course.

3) Markus Haggney, FAI events and Sports Director, representative of Airsports of the FAI is the link between BOC and FAI/IPC. Together with Steve we have checked the locations "Railroad"-Park

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location, which is not big enough in size and has too many trees spread out, so that we found this place to be not really the place of choice for drones. Also, a last option fell short quickly. The nearby soccer-field will partly be used for other sport-disciplines but will also not be big enough any longer, as soon as the planned building constructions on the field are started.

4) Alberto Martin Paracuellos, Chair of the Canopy Piloting Committee, who is in charge of the discipline itself and also in which format Canopoy Piloting will be presented. This includes a possible team-CP-event, in which AI has experience presenting a 2-way format in Canopy Piloting competitions, which he just used at the US Nationals in September 2018.

In my opinion it is worth to intensify our efforts to bring this team concept into the TWG and into Canopy Piloting, which will make the events look even more spectacular.

I have talked to AL about it and would need consideration of making the pond wider than standard. AL will address Steve in this regard. There is space for this, also in the opinion of Committee member and experienced CTD and pond constructor, Jasper Williams.

Last but not least, personally, I strongly recommend to have also the drones performing on the same venue with Canopy Piloting. I am very sure, that both disciplines can be presented together, when an orchestrated format is planned and executed., as we had seen during the Swoop Freestyle FAI World Championships 2018 in San Diego, CA.

End.