



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 22, 2025; 12:00 P.M.

Location: BMO Center Board Room—Lower Level
300 Elm Street, Rockford, IL 61101

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Craig Thomas Tom Walsh John Phelps
Bobbie Holzwarth Rudy Valdez Megan McCoy
Miles Nielsen

Board Members Absent: Staci Brown

Others Present: Tim Rollins, Attorney
Alderman Chad Tuneberg
Alderman Frank Beach
Kevin McCarthy, Winnebago County Liaison
Beth Howard, Executive Director, Friends of the Coronado
Julie Thomas, Executive Director, Rockford Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Funk, Senior Manager, Wipfli LLP

Staff Present: Gretchen Gilmore, General Manager, ASM Rockford
Doug Johnson, Regional Director of Booking Theatres Midwest ASM Global
Jackie Powers, Finance Coordinator/RAVE Board Secretary, ASM Rockford

Chairman Thomas calls the meeting to order at 12:03 pm and welcomes new board member Miles Nielsen.

MINUTES – The previously reviewed minutes from the Closed Session September 23, 2024, meeting are approved.

MOTION: To approve September 23, 2024, Closed Session minutes made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

The previously reviewed minutes from the October 23, 2024, meeting are approved.

MOTION: To approve October 23, 2024, minutes made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Megan McCoy. Motion passes unanimously.

The previously reviewed minutes from the Closed Session October 23, 2024, meeting are approved.

MOTION: To approve October 23, 2024, Closed Session minutes made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by John Phelps. Motion passes unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance** **Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair**

Tom Walsh defers to the Treasurer's report.

- **Executive** **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**

Craig Thomas reports on the recent announcement that we will host the 2026 AHL All Star event and thanks Gretchen Gilmore and staff for their work in bringing the event. It is noted the event has not been held in the Midwest for the last 20 years and it is anticipated to be a premiere event for the community as a whole. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the activities that will take place during the event and notes the tourism grant and help from the Rockford IceHogs that made securing the event possible.

- **DEIB Advisory Committee** **Mr. Rudy Valdez, Chair**

Rudy Valdez reviews the DEIB Scorecard and highlights several events. Rudy Valdez informs the board two applications have been received for the Community Grant. At this time, an application for a Black History Month event has been presented to the committee and approved to be voted on by the full board.

- **Program Advisory Committee**

No report at this time.

- **Marketing and Social Media Committee** **Ms. Megan McCoy, Chair**

Megan McCoy reviews a marketing update included in the board packet. Gretchen Gilmore reports on the change of a marketing employee from part-time to full-time. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the Club Coronado events now being offered in conjunction with many events at the Coronado. Doug Johnson reports on the implementation of geo-fencing for marketing purposes.

- **Capital Planning Working Group** **Mr. John Phelps, Chair**

John Phelps defers to the General Manager's report.

- **Hockey Advisory Committee** **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**

No report at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer

Tom Walsh requests a vote on the financial statements for September 2024 and October 2024, which were previously distributed and reviewed.

MOTION: To approve September 2024, and October 2024, financials, as previously presented, made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.

Tom Walsh introduces Jerry Funk from Wipfli to review the FY24 Audited Financials. Jerry Funk reviews the Audit information and announces we have once again received the best opinion. Assets, liabilities, and net position are all reported and deemed healthy and favorable. Tom Walsh clarifies the relationship between the monthly financials and the audited financials. Tom Walsh encourages the board to read the notes section of the audit which provides a historical background on the organization and will be helpful in understanding the audit as a whole. A brief discussion of certain line items follows with Gretchen Gilmore and Tom Walsh providing clarification. Alderman Chad Tuneberg requests a copy of the report and history section be sent to him for distribution to the Rockford City Council.

MOTION: To approve FY24 Audited Financial Statements made by Rudy Valdez, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously.

Gretchen Gilmore reviews the financial statements for November 2024, highlighting events at both venues and comparing this year to the previous year. Concession sales are praised by members of the board. Doug Johnson states the REO Speedwagon event was the highest net event income made on a concert at BMO Center. Several factors are discussed as contributing to the success of the event.

MOTION: To approve November 2024, financials made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Megan McCoy. Motion passes unanimously.

Gretchen Gilmore reviews events and financials for December 2024, bringing attention to IceHogs and Harlem Globetrotters events. Gretchen Gilmore highlights the financial forecast through November and highlights the addition of shows at the Coronado Theatre.

MOTION: To approve December 2024, financials made by Rudy Valdez, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT – Ms. Gretchen Gilmore, GM

Gretchen Gilmore reports public works plans are still being reworked for Davis Park. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that the new PA system at the Coronado will be installed ahead of schedule in February. The City of Rockford is moving forward with phase one of the lighting project at the Coronado and the update of the Coronado marquee message board is still on track.

Doug Johnson reports on his recent meetings with promoters and reviews recent and upcoming events at both venues.

Doug Johnson reports he was contacted by a promoter and informed that Hard Rock contacted the agent of one of our confirmed shows trying to convince the show to play their venue rather than uphold their contract with us. The promoter assured Doug Johnson that the show will honor their contract with us. Doug Johnson relays to the board that he has not come across this kind of activity in the past.

Gretchen Gilmore updates the board on the generator project with a target of March or April for installation. Gretchen Gilmore reports a solution for the faulty cup holders on the new seats is being tested by the manufacturer. A recent inspection of our Fall Arrest system showed we need to redo and certify our system and we will be putting the project out for bid, which may delay some items previously discussed.

Craig Thomas brings the board's attention to the grant application in their packet for the Black History Month event. Tom Walsh reiterates that the committee recommends the approval of the application. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that we hosted the same event last season and have no doubt it will be a successful community event. Gretchen Gilmore states the committee recommends awarding the grant and reducing the event invoice by \$2,500.

MOTION: To approve the Community Programming Grant for the NAACP Black History Month Celebration on February 22, 2025, in the amount of \$2,500 made by Tom Walsh, second by Megan McCoy. Motion passes with Rudy Valdez abstaining.

COUNSEL'S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

No report at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Craig Thomas thanks Doug Johnson for bringing the matter of the Hard Rock's actions to the attention of the board and states he will be having follow-up discussions regarding the matter and is happy our municipal partners are in attendance. Craig Thomas expresses hope this was an isolated event.

Craig Thomas states the City of Rockford has appointed Kevin Schwitters to fill the vacant seat on the board.

Tim Rollins reviews the past parking agreement regarding Lot 7 and the updated revisions.

MOTION: To approve the Parking License Agreement with Brown Building Development, LLC, regarding Lot 7 made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 1:16 P.M.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Rudy Valdez, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer