



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 25, 2026; 12:00 P.M.

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

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Craig Thomas Kevin Schwitters Rudy Valez
Staci Brown Tom Walsh Bobbie Holzwarth

Board Members Absent: John Phelps Megan McCoy Miles Nielsen

Others Present: Tim Rollins, Attorney
Alderman Chad Tuneberg
Alderman Frank Beach
Kevin McCarthy, Winnebago County Liaison

Staff Present: Gretchen Gilmore, General Manager, Legends Global
Doug Johnson, Assistant General Manager, Legends Global
Jackie Powers, Finance Coordinator/RAVE Board Secretary, Legends Global

Chairman Craig Thomas calls the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

MINUTES – The minutes from the January 28, 2026, meeting are approved.

MOTION: To approve the January 28, 2026, minutes made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Tom Walsh defers to the Treasurer’s Report.

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

Craig Thomas informs the board that he and John Phelps met with Mayor McNamara and Todd Cagnoni regarding topics including board succession with further discussion to come.

- **Belonging & Community Partnerships Committee** **Mr. Rudy Valdez, Chair**

Gretchen Gilmore reviews the DEIB scorecard, highlighting our significant role in organizing and planning for Friends of the Coronado Reach for the Stars programming. Doug Johnson compliments staff on their hard work

putting the events together on short notice. Rudy Valdez states that the committee will be reviewing grant applications at their next meeting.

- **Content Creation & Programming Committee**

Mr. Kevin Schwitters, Chair

No report at this time.

- **Marketing & Social Media Committee**

Ms. Megan McCoy, Chair

Gretchen Gilmore provides a Marketing Update to the board, highlighting that Tourism Incentive Grant materials have been sent to target parties. The board will be updated periodically and will offer assistance when possible. Gretchen Gilmore reports on two upcoming private event bookings. Gretchen Gilmore and Doug Johnson state the premium seating initiative is going well.

- **Hockey Advisory Committee**

Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair

No report at this time.

- **Capital Planning & Infrastructure Working Group**

Mr. John Phelps, Chair

No report at this time.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer

Tom Walsh defers to Gretchen Gilmore who reviews the January financials, comparing income and budget variances. Gretchen Gilmore expresses optimism that the financial forecast for the operating budget will improve after the February numbers are posted. Tom Walsh states we have been receiving direction from Legends Global regarding managing our expenses, which will contribute to better results on our financial statements.

MOTION: To approve the January 2026, financials made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Staci Brown. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that the Streetscapes project has been awarded for the area around the Coronado Theatre and she will address concerns with the Public Works Department to make sure our needs are being met. Alderman Tuneberg and Alderman Beach request they stay updated on communication with the city so they may intercede on our behalf if any issues arise during the project.

Gretchen Gilmore updates the board regarding the work at Davis Park and reports that due to construction delays, the July 3rd celebration for the 250th Anniversary planned for Davis Park has been moved to the Coronado Theatre. Gretchen Gilmore states the planned festival for early October is still on track.

Gretchen Gilmore reports on the successful AHL All Star events and relays positive feedback from all involved, including the President of the AHL. Craig Thomas states representatives from the Chicago Blackhawks were also complimentary.

Gretchen Gilmore updates the board on upcoming projects, including scheduling and bids at BMO Center. Gretchen Gilmore discusses the addition of items to the Cooling Tower Project and requests the board vote to approve the new project proposal with the additional fees. Gretchen Gilmore states that in the future, due to the way the program is designed, we will not initiate contracts with Omnia Partners without pre-approval from Counsel.

MOTION: To approve that Craig Thomas sign the revised proposal with Alpha Controls as submitted, made by Rudy Valdez, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board of changes in the organizational structure of Legends Global and how these changes affect our venues.

Doug Johnson reviews market trends and programming in our venues, highlighting the upcoming Bob Dylan concert, and informs the board that in 1994, Bob Dylan donated \$20,000 to help build a specialized playground for disabled students at Page Park School in Rockford, Illinois. Craig Thomas suggests we reach out to the organization in the event they would like to thank him for his past contribution. Doug Johnson states he has several ideas regarding events surrounding the concert date.

COUNSEL’S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

No report at this time.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Craig Thomas states he has been contacted as Chairman of RAVE regarding Transform Rockford’s launch of the 1834 Alliance of Transformational Dreamers and Doers, and he will update the board as more information is available. Bobbie Holzwarth discusses the initiative and confirms that there will be an event by Transform Rockford on June 4, 2026, to recognize the honorees of the initiative. Gretchen Gilmore relays that as a part of the initiative, there will be a documentary filmed about the Metro Centre and its role in the community.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 12:55 P.M.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer