



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 26, 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 Staci Brown
John Phelps Rudy Valdez Kevin Schwitters

Board Members Absent: Bobbie Holzwarth Megan McCoy Miles Nielsen

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
Mike Kikta, President, Rockford Symphony Orchestra Board

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 12:01 pm and welcomes new board member Kevin Schwitters. Kevin Schwitters introduces himself to the board. Members of the board take turns introducing themselves.

MINUTES – The minutes from the January 22, 2025, meeting are approved.

MOTION: *To approve the January 22,2025, minutes made by Rudy Valdez, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance** **Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair**
Tom Walsh defers to the Treasurer’s report.
- **Executive** **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**
No report at this time.
- **DEIB Advisory Committee** **Mr. Rudy Valdez, Chair**

Rudy Valdez favorably reviews the Black History Month event that was held at the Coronado Theatre and the REACH for the Stars presentation of Yamato – The Drummers of Japan, emphasizing the mix of generations and ethnicities in the audience and the positive community engagement. Gretchen Gilmore thanks the Coronado staff for their hard work on the Yamato events. Gretchen Gilmore discusses the Black History Month event, as it was the first recipient of the Community Grant and relays the implementation of a post-event report for the promoter to complete. Gretchen Gilmore highlights items on the DEIB scorecard. Craig Thomas extends his thanks to the production team and to Friends of the Coronado for their hard work on the Reach for the Stars event. Beth Howard also expresses her thanks for a successful event.

- **Program Advisory Committee**

No report at this time.

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

Gretchen Gilmore reviews an update from the Marketing department highlighting the transition to Legends IQ and the successful implementation of the pre-event “Club Coronado” experience for select events at the theatre.

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

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that the building automation system project has been completed and highlights upcoming projects for the next year.

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

No report at this time.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer

Gretchen Gilmore reviews events and financials for January 2025, highlighting the comparisons of month to month and year to date. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the financial forecast and brings the attention of the board to the wages and benefits analysis. Gretchen Gilmore explains to the board that the dissolution of the partnership with Hard Rock has adversely affected Savor with a decrease in Food and Beverage dollars spent. Craig Thomas requests clarification on the budget items for net salaries and benefits, and utilities. Gretchen Gilmore will provide an update and analysis on those items at the next meeting.

MOTION: To approve January 2025, financials made by Tom Walsh, second by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Gretchen Gilmore reports that the exterior façade program at the Coronado Theatre is ongoing and the new PA system is up and running. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that the lighting on the marquee at the Coronado is being updated and replaced. Gretchen Gilmore relays to the board that the plans for Davis Park construction are nearly complete and ready to be put out for bid. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that representatives from the AHL will be on site at the end of March for their first walk-through in preparation for the AHL All Star events being held here next year and will keep the board updated.

Doug Johnson reviews the new Legends marketing database and strategies and its positive impact on ticket sales. Doug Johnson gives an overview of programming at the Coronado Theatre and updates the board on events that have moved from our venues to the Hard Rock Casino and his efforts to continue relationships with promoters to book events. Craig Thomas explains his desire to try to repair the partnership with the Hard

Rock, but he is not optimistic, as they have shown no desire to continue a partnership with RAVE. Craig Thomas expresses his openness to renewing the partnership should they be willing. A brief discussion follows regarding the City of Rockford Amusement Tax and its effect on the dissolution of the partnership with the Hard Rock Casino.

The Temporary Construction Easement is discussed with clarification given as to how the construction will affect events at our venues. The Resolution is attached to these minutes.

MOTION: Resolved that Craig Thomas, the Chairman of the Rockford Metropolitan Exposition, Auditorium, and Office Building Authority, an Illinois Municipal Corporation of the Council or Board of the above-referenced governmental entity are hereby authorized and directed to convey the governmental entity's interest in the following described real estate in Winnebago County, Illinois to the People of the State of Illinois, Department of Transportation for highway purposes for the sum of \$500.00 made by Rudy Valdez, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

COUNSEL'S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

No report at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Craig Thomas updates the board regarding the status of the IGA discussions with the City of Rockford and Winnebago County. He reaffirms his expectation that we remain in position to allocate our municipal funding support to the capital needs of the facility, rather than the operational needs as has been done in the past. He further reports that the requested support from Winnebago County is in process for final consideration by the Winnebago County Board in March. Kevin McCarthy expresses his support for County funding to continue and is optimistic in the continuation of an IGA from Winnebago County. The separate parking IGA is briefly discussed in hope of an upcoming resolution.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: To move into closed session made by John Phelps, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

Closed Session begins at 12:59 P.M.

Open Session resumes at 1:14 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 1:14 P.M.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Rudy Valdez, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer