



## AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, March 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      Miles Nielsen  
John Phelps      Megan McCoy      Bobbie Holzwarth

**Board Members Absent:** None

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

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

Chairman Craig Thomas calls the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

**MINUTES** – The minutes from the February 25, 2026, meeting are approved.

***MOTION: To approve the February 25, 2026, minutes made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Rudy Valdez. 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 Doug Johnson is out on unexpected leave, and we are hopeful he will be at the next board meeting.
- **Belonging & Community Partnerships Committee** **Mr. Rudy Valdez, Chair**

Rudy Valdez reviews the Community Grant requests from Stateline Nurses and Goodwill Industries. Craig Thomas clarifies there is no expectation that the grants are renewable. Tom Walsh states the Finance Committee has also reviewed and approved of the requests.

***MOTION: To approve a Community Grant in the amount of \$2,500 for Stateline Nurses Network 2026 Nursing Expo made by John Phelps, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.***

***MOTION: To approve a Community Grant in the amount of \$2,500 for Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois Graduation Ceremony made by John Phelps, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously.***

Rudy Valdez refers to the pledge review and encourages board members to stop by the blood drive in the lobby. Gretchen Gilmore highlights events on the pledge review, including Hot Wheels, ticket giveaways, and hiring LOLTOS to aid in recent private events.

- **Content Creation & Programming Committee** **Mr. Kevin Schwitters, Chair**

Kevin Schwitters informs the board the committee has met to outline their priorities and expects to present more information soon.

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

Megan McCoy reviews the grassroots community outreach initiative to partner with local small businesses, and marketing initiatives for premium experiences, such as Club Coronado and Coronado Memberships. Megan McCoy informs there has been a focus on private events and recently participated in the Downtown Wedding Walk. Gretchen Gilmore expands on the components of the Wedding Walk event. Megan McCoy states the committee is exploring future events to utilize the Illinois Tourism grant.

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board we have not renewed the Legends IQ program, as its programmatic advertising is not at the level of our previous software and has not proven to be beneficial to us in regard to cost to revenue outcomes. Gretchen Gilmore has discussed the program with other venues and corporate contacts and is waiting to hear from corporate offices as to our marketing options. Craig Thomas requests board assent for Gretchen Gilmore to explain to her corporate contacts that the RAVE board is extremely concerned about the marketing platform and wants to use the system our marketing team suggests best fits our needs. Craig Thomas suggests further discussion if Legends requires that we use only the platform they designate.

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

No report at this time.

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

Gretchen Gilmore explains that the Exterior Concrete projects will be subdivided, along with some additional repairs, so that funding can be secured in separate installments.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer**

Tom Walsh defers to Gretchen Gilmore who reviews the February financials, highlighting an all-time high event-income due mainly to the recent AHL All Star Classic events. Gretchen Gilmore reviews all recent events and compares revenue and expenses to budget, with focus on the AHL All Star events and preparations, and the structure of the co-promotion with the Rockford IceHogs. Gretchen Gilmore will provide the heat map for the AHL event to the board.

There is a brief discussion regarding the casino being built in Beloit, WI, and its impact on our venues, with further discussion expected as more details are available.

***MOTION: To approve February 2026, financials made by Tom Walsh, second by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.***

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

Gretchen Gilmore discusses the upcoming Streetscapes project for the area around the Coronado Theatre and informs that a list of our events has been provided to the City of Rockford, along with concerns about the proposed brick pattern not interfering with our building access. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that a special star design will be added to the sidewalk under the marquee.

Gretchen Gilmore relays that Davis Park will not be ready for the proposed festival in October, but the Labor Day Picnic is still scheduled in a different area of the park. Rudy Valdez questions the process for rentals of the Davis Park stage by different organizations and is informed the Memo of Understanding is still being finalized regarding ticketing and charges and Gretchen Gilmore will follow-up.

Gretchen Gilmore updates that the cooling tower project is underway and will be switched over to the new equipment once the hockey season has ended. We will also be taking bids to replace some pipes in the fire suppression system.

Gretchen Gilmore reviews the remaining events for the season and informs the board that since Davis Park will still be under construction we are partnering with Friends of the Coronado to hold "Coronado Summer Cinema" in its place and they have already secured the bulk of the funds necessary to hold the two planned events, with the possibility of a third event in the fall.

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that Doug Logan, the original General Manager of the Rockford Metro Centre, and Craig Thomas will be interviewed for an upcoming documentary.

Gretchen Gilmore thanks Winnebago County for providing us with two police vehicles to replace our current substandard vehicles.

#### **COUNSEL'S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins**

No report at this time.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Craig Thomas reminds board members to fill out their Statements of Economic Interest before the May deadline.

Craig Thomas reflects on the recent passing of Sunil Puri and expresses his personal gratitude, and the gratitude of the entire RAVE board, for his tireless work for the RAVE board, noting that his vision, dedication, and thoughtful leadership were foundational to RAVE's success.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The Authority Board adjourned at 12:57 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