



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 27, 2024; 12:00 P.M.

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

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Craig Thomas Rudy Valdez Tom Walsh
John Phelps Geno Iafrate Staci Brown
Megan McCoy Dan McMahan

Board Members Absent: Bobbie Holzwarth

Others Present: Alderman Frank Beach
Kevin McCarthy, Winnebago County Liaison
Julie Thomas, Executive Director, Rockford Symphony Orchestra
Beth Howard, Executive Director, Friends of the Coronado
Alderman Mark Bonne

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

Craig Thomas calls the meeting to order at 12:04 P.M.

MINUTES – The minutes from the February 28, 2024, meeting are reviewed and approved.

MOTION: *To approve the February 28, 2024, minutes made by Rudy Valdez, second by Megan McCoy. Motion passes unanimously.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Rudy Valdez informs the board Gretchen Gilmore recently attended a meeting of the Coalition of Latino Leaders and her involvement was well-received. Gretchen Gilmore discusses the pledge review and highlights

activities, including a staff lunch spotlighting a local business for Women’s History Month and the most recent Naturalization Ceremony at the Coronado. Gretchen Gilmore informs the Bilingual and Multicultural Department hosted two student performances of 123 Andres at the Coronado for approximately 821 kindergarten through third graders from six schools participating in Rockford Public Schools Bilingual Program, and Savor hosted 15 students from the RPS ProStart Culinary Program for a field trip highlighting hospitality in the arena setting. Gretchen Gilmore relays the staff member spotlighted this month is 17-year Event Staff member Joann Bardell.

- **Program Advisory Committee** **Mr. Geno Iafrate**
No report at this time.
- **Marketing and Social Media Committee** **Ms. Megan McCoy, Chair**
No report at this time.
- **Capital Planning Working Group** **Mr. John Phelps, Chair**
John Phelps defers to the Chairman’s report.
- **Hockey Advisory Committee** **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**
No report at this time.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer

Tom Walsh defers to Gretchen Gilmore, who reviews the February 2024 Financials, highlighting event attendance and income in comparison to previous events and seasons. Gretchen Gilmore and Tom Walsh inform the board the financial outlook is currently forecasted to exceed the profits from last year. Gretchen Gilmore reminds the board the Finance Department changed accounting platforms on March 4th and due to the training and changes the March Financials will not be available at the April meeting. Rudy Valdez requests and receives clarification regarding non-food and beverage ancillary income.

MOTION: To approve the February 2024 financials made by John Phelps, second by Megan McCoy. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that the City of Rockford’s renovation plans for Davis Park are continuing and she will be sending the sponsorship packets to board members for their information. Gretchen Gilmore relays to the board that Kyle Saunders, Director of Public Works for the City of Rockford has completed his time at the Coronado Performing Arts Center and his work is appreciated. Gretchen Gilmore updates the board regarding ongoing maintenance and lighting projects at the Coronado.

Gretchen Gilmore states the Rockford IceHogs expect to move on to the playoffs and the schedule will be released closer to the final regular season game.

Doug Johnson informs the board the new Booking system, Infor, will be integrated with the new finance department software for efficiency in event booking and tracking. Doug Johnson reviews upcoming events and explains a promoter has requested alcohol sales end early at an upcoming event. Doug Johnson reviews past and upcoming events for the board, highlighting the success of the recent WWE event and upcoming comedy events booked at the Coronado and the BMO Center on the same nights.

Gretchen Gilmore updates the board regarding renovation status, including redoing the flooring at the box office entrance and exterior concrete. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board the City of Rockford has started a Streetscape project replacing the sidewalk in front of our box office and will include both sides of Main Street extending the entire block from Chestnut Street to Elm Street. We have been assured by the city that we will maintain access to our box office and stage door entrances throughout the project. Gretchen Gilmore notifies the board the target date for the new website has moved to May or June. Charging stations will be installed at the Coronado and the BMO Center for guests to charge electronics on event days. Gretchen Gilmore advises the Marketing team is working on several projects, including the annual report.

Gretchen Gilmore tells the board the RACVB participated in the Illinois Governors Conference on Tourism and Travel in Peoria, IL where they brought home two awards, one of which was for the Best Cooperative Partnership for the 2023 Midwestern and Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships held at the BMO Center, which was a partnership with the RACVB, the BMO Center, the Skating Council of Illinois, and the City of Rockford.

COUNSEL'S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

No report at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Thomas asks Gretchen Gilmore to explain the generator project to the board. Gretchen Gilmore outlines the engineering study that was completed and the recommended generator project necessary to update the building systems for back-up power, including the hardware and software aspects of the plan. Gretchen Gilmore explains financing options are being studied to determine the best rate for purchase between RAVE and ASM and informs the board that the resolution being voted on today is the maximum rate in the event the ability to secure the lower rate falls through. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that there will be a transition to backup generators during the installation that will occur around the event schedule. Craig Thomas states this is a necessary capacity we have not had and need to implement to ensure we can fulfill our obligations to our tenants. A discussion follows regarding terms and conditions, tax implications and lease options, and reporting. Gretchen Gilmore will reach out to the accounting firm to determine implications on the reporting structure of the purchase.

Motion to adopt the Resolution to Approve Acquisition of Backup Power System for Arena, full text of motion attached to these minutes, made by Tom Walsh, second by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 12:50 P.M.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Geno Iafrate, second by John Phelps. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer

Attachment: Resolution to Approve Acquisition of Backup Power System for Arena

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
ACQUISITION OF BACKUP POWER SYSTEM FOR ARENA

WHEREAS, ASM Global has been reviewing various proposals to provide a backup electrical power generation system for the arena owned by RAVE and located at 300 Elm Street, Rockford, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, ASM Global is recommending to RAVE's board that a system be procured from Exergy Energy that consists of two 500kw natural gas generators and related equipment, installation, commissioning, and management, service, maintenance and record-keeping services; and

WHEREAS, ASM Global is still evaluating different financing options and models, including whether it is more cost-efficient for ASM Global to own the backup electrical power generation system or for RAVE to own that system; and

WHEREAS, the Board of RAVE agrees that it is in the best interests of RAVE, the arena and the community to acquire a backup electrical power generation system of the type being proposed by Exergy Energy;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board approves the acquisition, for installation in the arena owned by RAVE and located at 300 Elm Street, Rockford, Illinois, of a backup electrical power generation system as described in the proposal submitted to the Board, at a total acquisition cost not to exceed \$4,378,950 and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that if it is determined that it is more cost-efficient for ASM Global to own the system, it is authorized to do so, but subject to such agreements between RAVE and ASM Global with respect to the system as may be necessary and reasonable to protect the interests of both RAVE and ASM Global; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board's Chair and Vice Chair are authorized to negotiate and approve such terms and conditions for the acquisition with Exergy Energy and ASM Global as they believe are in the best interests of RAVE; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board's Chair is authorized to execute, on behalf of the Board, any contracts or other documents relating to the acquisition of the backup electrical power generation system that reflect the terms and conditions approved by the Chair and Vice Chair.