



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 29, 2026; 12:00 P.M.

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

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Bobbie Holzwarth Kevin Schwitters Rudy Valez
Staci Brown Megan McCoy

Board Members Absent: Craig Thomas John Phelps
Tom Walsh 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 (Via Telephone)

Bobbie Holzwarth calls the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

MOTION: *To elect Bobbie Holzwarth as Chair Pro-Tem for this meeting, made by Rudy Valdez, second by Megan McCoy. Motion passes unanimously.*

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

MOTION: *To approve the March 25, 2026, minutes made by Rudy Valdez, second by Staci Brown. Motion passes unanimously.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance Committee** **Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair**
No report at this time.
- **Executive Committee** **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**
No report at this time.
- **Belonging & Community Partnerships Committee** **Mr. Rudy Valdez, Chair**

Gretchen Gilmore reviews the scorecard, highlighting Earth Day activities and the Coronado Summer Cinema Series.

- **Content Creation & Programming Committee**

Mr. Kevin Schwitters, Chair

Kevin Schwitters informs the board the committee has met and is reviewing a list of event ideas that will be shared with the board soon.

- **Marketing & Social Media Committee**

Ms. Megan McCoy, Chair

Megan McCoy highlights the marketing handout. Gretchen Gilmore explains the differences between the marketing platforms and informs the board we will re-launch on the Legends IQ platform in August. Gretchen Gilmore highlights a recent feature of our Senior Box Office and Premium Sales Manager in Northwest Quarterly magazine.

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

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that the finance committee met to review the bid sheets for the fire suppression system and approved the March financials. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the March financials, focusing on event income in comparison to the budget, a decrease in utility costs, and the forecast. Gretchen Gilmore notes we are receiving quotes for new auditors, and the budget presentation is on schedule.

MOTION: To approve March 2026, financials made by Staci Brown, second by Megan McCoy. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Gretchen Gilmore discusses city projects at the Coronado Theatre for plasterwork, lighting, and elevator replacement. Gretchen Gilmore states the Streetscapes project is ongoing and access to our venue and garage has been available for all events. Gretchen Gilmore states that the organizers of the annual Labor Day Picnic are still planning to hold their event in Davis Park with modifications due to ongoing park construction. An event hosted by Go Rockford is also being planned for August 15, 2026, and Gretchen Gilmore will keep the board updated. Rudy Valdez requests clarification regarding event booking at Davis Park and Gretchen Gilmore will follow up. Gretchen Gilmore relays the Rockford IceHogs will be holding their annual garage sale on May 15 and 16.

Gretchen Gilmore states the Exterior Concrete Project will go out for bid in May for one side of the street with an alternate in the bid for the other side. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the Fire Suppression System bid recommendation, and alternates, including the continuing, larger scope of the project. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that the lowest responsible bid for the fire suppression project was from Twin Lakes Fire Service and recommends the board accept their bid. A brief discussion follows regarding the ongoing issues in the building with leaking pipes and replacement solutions.

MOTION: To approve the bid submitted by Twin Lakes Fire Service for the arena sprinkler pipe replacement project base bid and alternate 1 in the amount of \$113,950.00, made by Rudy Valdez, second by Staci Brown. Motion passes unanimously.

Gretchen Gilmore reviews upcoming events, including the Mother's Day Banquet at BMO Center. Assistant General Manager Doug Johnson joins the meeting via telephone and reviews upcoming events and continuing programming challenges with competition from Hard Rock Casino Rockford. Regardless of the competition, Doug Johnson is optimistic for Fall scheduling. Alderman Frank Beach requests written updates for the City of Rockford representatives to keep them informed of the challenges presented by the competition from the casino. Doug Johnson explains we are in an open entertainment market, and it is not always financially responsible for us to try to out-bid the casino to retain bookings even when we are listed as the promoter on record. The ethical ramifications regarding the first right of refusal for returning acts are discussed.

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that there is an upcoming event by 1834 Alliance that will highlight the partnership between the Chicago Blackhawks and BMO Center.

Gretchen Gilmore confirms the delivery of two police vehicles courtesy of the Winnebago County Sherriff's Department.

COUNSEL'S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

No report at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 1:01 P.M.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Rudy Valdez, second by Staci Brown. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer