



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 22, 2024; 12:00 P.M.

Location: 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 Dan McMahon
Megan McCoy Bobbie Holzwarth

Board Members Absent: Staci Brown

Others Present: Tim Rollins, Attorney
Alderman Chad Tuneberg
Alderman Frank Beach
Mike Kikta, President, Rockford Symphony Orchestra Board
Beth Howard, Executive Director, Friends of the Coronado
Armando Cardenas, Vice President, Friends of the Coronado

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 12:02 P.M.

MINUTES – The minutes from the April 24, 2024, meeting are reviewed and approved.

***MOTION: To approve the April 24, 2024, minutes made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Rudy Valdez.
Motion passes unanimously.***

MINUTES – The minutes from the April 29, 2024, meeting are reviewed and approved.

***MOTION: To approve the April 29, 2024, minutes made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Megan McCoy.
Motion passes unanimously.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance

Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair

John Phelps defers to General Manager's Report.

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

No report at this time.

- **DEIB Advisory Committee** **Mr. Rudy Valdez, Chair**

Rudy Valdez relays the DEIB Committee has discussed creating a fund to be voted on to offset costs when community groups book the Coronado. Craig Thomas states since we are subsidized by the City of Rockford, the city would need to delineate its support for such an initiative. Tom Walsh agrees and states there was money put aside previously for self-promotion and that may be where funds could be drawn in the event the board and city move forward with this issue. Rudy Valdez states the need to develop relationships with community groups by subsidizing some of the cost associated with holding events in our venues. Gretchen Gilmore suggests creating an application for such funds. All agree there needs to be structured criteria put in place for such a fund.

Gretchen Gilmore reviews the DEIB Scorecard for May, highlighting upcoming events with Rockford Guilford High School and RAMP Center for Independent Living.

- **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**

No report at this time.

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

No report at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer

Tom Walsh reminds the board of the new accounting system and states the financials for March are now ready to be reviewed with anticipation of being up to date before the end of the fiscal year. Tom Walsh defers to Gretchen Gilmore to review the March 2024 financials. Gretchen Gilmore gives an overview of events at BMO Center and Coronado Performing Arts Center with their financials, highlighting the Hot Wheels and IKWF events. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that IKWF will be moving to the Peoria Civic Center next year as they have outgrown our arena and the convention center in Peoria has more space for them to utilize.

MOTION: To approve the March 2024 financials made by Rudy Valdez, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Doug Johnson provides the board with a programming update, highlighting successful comedy shows and block parties. Doug Johnson informs the board that Rockford Public School graduation ceremonies will be returning to BMO Center this month.

Gretchen Gilmore states positive feedback has been received for the upcoming Friday Night Flix movie series at Davis Park.

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board the exterior concrete project has been started and some budget overages will be incurred. Gretchen Gilmore reports the seating project is moving forward and the generator project is still in contract discussions and should be executed soon. New signage is being installed on the building as well.

Gretchen Gilmore announces the new date for the website to go live will be July 8th. The Marketing Department is working on the Annual Report and a new retreat will need to be scheduled to review the report. Craig Thomas suggests coordinating with the City of Rockford and Winnebago County to present the report in the fall. Gretchen Gilmore encourages all board members to stay after the June board meeting to have new headshots taken for the annual report and website. Gretchen Gilmore reviews current City projects and their impact on traffic flow for Coronado and BMO Center events.

COUNSEL’S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

No report at this time.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Craig Thomas reiterates the need for the generator project to stay on track due to the necessary lead time.

Alderman Frank Beach initiates a discussion regarding the building of a conference center in Rockford. Informal discussion follows regarding past designs for such a center that may be on file and the viability for such a center in Rockford at this time and what group or municipality should be spearheading such an effort.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer