



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 26, 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
Staci Brown Geno Iafrate Megan McCoy

Board Members Absent: John Phelps Bobbie Holzwarth
Dan McMahon

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 12:01 P.M.

MINUTES – The minutes from the June 26, 2024, meeting are reviewed and approved.

MOTION: To approve the June 26, 2024, 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 reviews the DEIB scorecard and highlights certain areas. Gretchen Gilmore suggests using funds from the Self-Promotion Fund to offset costs for certain events at the Coronado. Craig Thomas suggests speaking with the City of Rockford regarding the IGA and using some of the funds for the Self-Promotion Fund and having it be a line item in the budget. Rudy Valdez agrees to the importance of adding the line item to the budget to ensure the use of the funds. Craig Thomas asks the DEIB Committee to provide an outline for the application.

- **Program Advisory Committee** **Mr. Geno Iafrate, Chair**

Geno Iafrate reports Gretchen Gilmore, Craig Thomas, and Doug Johnson toured the Hard Rock Casino. All agreed it will be an impressive venue and an asset to Rockford.

- **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 reports there is more information to share about the PA System for the Coronado Performing Arts Center and defers to Gretchen Gilmore. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the Event Financials and highlights the IceHogs playoff events and strong performance by Coronado events. Gretchen Gilmore presents the board with a conservative forecast for the months of May and June. Gretchen Gilmore explains the process for the submission of the budget and preliminary steps being taken for the audit and insurance renewals and appraisal.

Gretchen Gilmore states the invitation for bid document has been created for the new PA System at the Coronado. Gretchen Gilmore explains the need for purchasing a PA system and how the purchase price compares to the current rental fees, the expected life of the system, and the maintenance warranty package. Tom Walsh suggests an invitation to bid be sent out. Gretchen Gilmore states we currently have full funding to purchase the system and it will not require financing.

MOTION: To approve the April 2024 financials made by Megan McCoy, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board an Ironman event will be taking place in Rockford, and they will be utilizing Davis Park. Details will be coming as to the extent the park will be used. Gretchen Gilmore states a projector is being purchased for the Coronado that will also be used at David Park. The drinking fountain projects are complete, and we are now in compliance. Gretchen Gilmore states the IceHogs schedule will be out soon.

Doug Johnson reviews recent events, attendance, and ticket sales while showing photos of the events. Geno Iafrate states he would like to refer gatherings beyond the capacity of the Hard Rock Venue to the BMO to

keep the events in Rockford. Gretchen Gilmore relays that the Marketing Team hired a videographer to film a recent banquet event and will use the footage in future event proposals. Doug Johnson informs the board there will be a multi-night Cirque Du Soleil event and a trailer is shown. Gretchen Gilmore updates the board regarding ongoing construction projects, the seating project, and the generator project.

Gretchen Gilmore states we have been awarded a tourism grant to initially be used for an event with the IceHogs and Blackhawks and outlines the parameters of the grant and its ability to incentivize other similar events. Board members are encouraged to view the new window wrapping and lighting on the Church Street side of the building. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board we have put our custodial contract up for bid and results will be announced soon.

COUNSEL'S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

No report at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Craig Thomas informs the board he has completed his interview for the yearly audit. Craig Thomas relays that while there has been significant progress lobbying the State of Illinois for additional renovation funds, there was not an allocation in the Spring session, but it will be addressed again during the Fall session.

Craig Thomas updates the board regarding an increase in the City of Rockford Amusement tax and the city requiring the tax on all comparative venues. A discussion follows regarding the Amusement Tax and its applications and implications on all Rockford venues.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 1:00 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