



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 29, 2025; 12:00 P.M.

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

MINUTES

Board Members Present:	John Phelps	Bobbie Holzwarth	Kevin Schwitters
	Rudy Valdez	Tom Walsh	Staci Brown
	Craig Thomas	Megan McCoy	Miles Nielsen

Board Members Absent:

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

Staff Present: Gretchen Gilmore, General Manager, ASM Rockford
Doug Johnson, Assistant GM & Regional Booking Director, ASM Global
Jackie Powers, Finance Coordinator/RAVE Board Secretary, ASM Rockford

Chairman Craig Thomas calls the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

MINUTES – The minutes from the September 24, 2025, meeting are approved.

MOTION: To approve the September 24, 2025, minutes made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance** **Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair**

Tom Walsh defers to the Treasurer's Report.

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

Craig Thomas reminds the board of the change in dates, combining the upcoming November and December meetings. Chairman Thomas informs the board of a bill introduced in the Illinois Legislature, which would, among other things, impose a 7% amusement tax on all ticketed events in the state of Illinois, which would be problematic for us in particular, given our proximity to the state line with a new venue being built in Wisconsin. Craig Thomas indicates Doug Johnson has relayed input from promoters, also indicating they would be less likely to book in our venues if such a tax is imposed. A brief discussion follows regarding the proposed bill, and Craig

Thomas states he is cautiously optimistic that the legislation will not pass and will update the board as information becomes available. Gretchen Gilmore confirms our Tourism Grant has been extended to June 2028.

- **DEIB Advisory Committee**

Mr. Rudy Valdez, Chair

Rudy Valdez reviews the DEIB spreadsheet. Gretchen Gilmore highlights the recent Spirits and Spirits event partnership with the Land of Lincoln Theatre Organ Society at the Coronado Theatre. Gretchen Gilmore relays that we have hired individuals from RAMP Disability Resources & Services and that members of our staff are attending a luncheon at their offices.

Rudy Valdez reviews the Community Programming Grants applied for and distributed over the past year. Rudy Valdez relays questions he has received regarding possible ICE action at our venues, and Gretchen Gilmore states she will share the corporate policy with the board.

- **Program Advisory Committee**

No report at this time.

- **Marketing and Social Media Committee**

Ms. Megan McCoy, Chair

Megan McCoy reviews the Marketing handout. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the recent groundbreaking ceremony at Davis Park and the work to define the scope of responsibilities for different organizations at Davis Park, with more details to follow.

- **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

Gretchen Gilmore reviews the September financial statements, highlighting the Bert Kreischer and Leanne Morgan events. Gretchen Gilmore provides an update on the progress of the audited financials and anticipates its completion for presentation at the December board meeting.

A brief discussion regarding the success of Savor's foodservice and catering is discussed, and it is mentioned that we appreciate their ability to enhance the guest experience, but do not wish to use their talents to compete with area establishments.

Craig Thomas inquires about ticket sales for the Rockford IceHogs and is told sales are doing very well, which also adds to more food and beverage revenue through Savor.

MOTION: To approve the September 2025, financials as presented made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Megan McCoy. Motion passes unanimously.

Tom Walsh reviews the origin of the Community Grant program, and several board members express their approval and support of the program.

MOTION: To approve extending the Community Grant program for 2026 at \$10,000 made by Tom Walsh, second by Staci Brown. Motion passes unanimously.

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

Gretchen Gilmore updates the board on the exterior façade and Park Avenue windows project at the Coronado, and informs that the granite footer will not be replaced until the completion of the upcoming Streetscape project. Gretchen Gilmore reports the Coronado Theatre lighting project is being prepared to go to bid and reminds the board that in July of 2026, the theatre is blocked for plaster work and that the elevators are slated to be replaced.

Gretchen Gilmore states she is applying for a Tourism Attraction grant to aid in the purchase of stage equipment for Davis Park.

Gretchen Gilmore reviews the recent pre-season hockey game and the equipment failure of a newly installed automatic switch that caused the building to lose power. Gretchen Gilmore states that the staff in the building were calm and professional as they successfully dismissed all attendees without incident. Special thanks were given to the fire department for their help in safely evacuating our patrons with special needs from the third floor. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that we currently have a backup generator on site in the event of future power loss.

Doug Johnson provides an update on recent and upcoming events, highlighting a recent cheerleading event. Doug Johnson informs the board that ticket sales are down industry-wide, and promoters are pulling back due to the amount of entertainment in the area, so in response, we are focusing on our own created content.

COUNSEL'S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

No report at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Craig Thomas informs the board that he, John Phelps, Gretchen Gilmore, and Doug Johnson recently met with Les Cooks, the Regional Vice President with Legends Global, and they are optimistic he will be involved and helpful as a resource going forward. Craig Thomas relays that he and Gretchen Gilmore recently had their yearly presentation to the Winnebago County Board, and it was well received, as was their presentation to the City Council in Rockford, with positive engagement and discussion.

Craig Thomas encourages the board to bring any thoughts or ideas to help support downtown vendors with the AHL All-Star events in February. Gretchen Gilmore will share the schedule of events with the board.

CLOSED SESSION

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 1:02 P.M.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Miles Nielsen. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer