



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 26, 2022; 12:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Call: 779-774-4672; PIN 0314

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Craig Thomas Tom Walsh Howie Heaton
Michael Schirger Mike Dunn Bobbie Holzwarth
John Phelps Martesha Brown

Board Members Absent: Rudy Valdez

Others Present: Alderman Frank Beach
Alderman Chad Tuneberg
John Butitta, Winnebago County Liaison
Tim Rollins, Attorney
Harry Cann, Regional Vice President, ASM Global
Jerry Funk, WIPFLI
Beth Howard, Friends of the Coronado

Staff Present: Gretchen Gilmore; General Manager, BMO Harris Bank Center
Doug Johnson; Assistant General Manager, BMO Harris Bank Center
Jackie Powers; Finance Coordinator/RAVE Board Secretary, BMO Harris Bank Center

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

Craig Thomas states due to the current pandemic we are not able to meet in person. These minutes are being recorded and made available to the public.

MINUTES – The minutes from the October 27, 2021, meeting were reviewed and approved.

MOTION: To approve the October 27, 2021, minutes made by Mike Dunn, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, Michael Schirger, John Phelps, Howie Heaton, Martesha Brown, Mike Dunn, Bobbie Holzwarth.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance

Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair

No report at this time.

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

Craig Thomas informs the board that as the end of the time to utilize funds from the local CURES Act Reimbursement grant it became clear that we would not be able to utilize the balance of the funds. Discussions with the City of Rockford and Winnebago County were had to facilitate the reallocation of unused funds to the Winnebago County Health department.

- **Davis Park** **Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair**

No report at this time.

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

No report at this time.

- **DEI Advisory Group** **Ms. Martesha Brown, Chair**

Martesha Brown informs the board the committee is proposing a scorecard that will highlight all the individual pledges and what work has been done in each area. Martesha Brown gives kudos to Gretchen Gilmore and team and the Friends of the Coronado for all their work behind the scenes in integrating the work on the committee's priorities. Beth Howard informs the board of the opportunity to bring the Alvin Ailey Dance Company back to the Coronado for a free performance, as they did for their well-received performances in 2019.

- **Governance** **Mr. Tim Rollins, Attorney**

No report at this time.

- **Program Advisory Group** **Mr. Michael Schirger, Chair**

No report at this time.

- **Capital Improvement** **Mr. John Phelps, Chair**

No report at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer

Gretchen Gilmore introduces Jerry Funk from WIPFLI, the firm that conducted the 2021 audit. Jerry Funk explains that the submitted audit is a draft and although an opinion is not issued with a draft audit, he informs the board that "it will be a clean opinion, which will state that the financial statements are fairly presented in all material respects, which is the best opinion you could get." Jerry Funk highlights areas of the audit for the board members and offers to go more in depth with any board members who wish to speak with him. Bobbie Holzwarth asks if the auditors found staff to be cooperative in performing the audit and Jerry Funk answered "Yes, absolutely. Absolutely."

MOTION: To approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Audit made by John Phelps, second by Martesha Brown. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, Michael Schirger, John Phelps, Howie Heaton, Martesha Brown, Mike Dunn, Bobbie Holzwarth.

Tom Walsh states that the hockey season is underway with the BMO operating as the provider of the facility and not the team owner and hopes to be able to report the benefits of the new arrangement to the board soon. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the events at the Coronado Performing Arts Center and the BMO Harris Bank Center in October and November and provides a highlight of the financials as distributed. Gretchen Gilmore informs that the new deal structure with the IceHogs and Blackhawks is removing risk and financial losses on weekday games. A more in-depth analysis will be provided later. Tom Walsh states that some of the ancillary funds coming in are still helping but in general selling the team has eliminated a lot of risk and has been helpful and made re-opening a positive experience. Gretchen Gilmore clarifies that any CURES or Shuttered Venue grant funds that come in are all “below the line” and do not affect operating income.

MOTION: To approve the October 2021 financials made by Michael Schirger, second by John Phelps. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, Michael Schirger, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Howie Heaton, Martesha Brown, Mike Dunn, Bobbie Holzwarth.

MOTION: To approve the November 2021 financials made by John Phelps, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, Michael Schirger, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Howie Heaton, Martesha Brown, Mike Dunn, Bobbie Holzwarth.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT – Mrs. Gretchen Gilmore, GM

Gretchen Gilmore introduces Doug Johnson to give the board a program update, including new programs with ASM Global for routing schedules for shows. Craig Thomas inquires if the local enthusiasm for re-opening is also happening on the regional and national level. Harry Cann states that there have been some event postponements and cancellations due to continuing Covid issues but overall, there has been a tremendous response in ticket sales and food and beverage revenue, and he expects the trend to continue. Harry Cann and Gretchen Gilmore inform the board of the ASM Global Acts program and platform to be rolled out on a corporate and local level. Gretchen Gilmore tells the board that our facility is one of ten venues in the pilot program for these new initiatives and will keep the board informed of the pillars of the program. Craig Thomas asks Doug Johnson if the local enthusiasm for events is consistent with what he is seeing with regional promoters. Doug Johnson clarifies that some genres are doing better than others and states we need to be mindful of that as we are booking shows.

Gretchen Gilmore updates that phase one of the arena renovation is wrapping up and informs the board that there is now heat in the basement of the BMO and the staff is appreciative of that fact. The exterior LED display is operational, and the third-floor premium area is still under review by the fire and code inspectors with new changes being implemented. A consultant has been hired to assist in meeting the goals for the DCEO grant regarding minority and female businesses. There is still one DCEO grant awaiting approval. Gretchen Gilmore anticipates approval for Phase Two is imminent, with a Phase Three to come later. Craig Thomas states that there may need to be an amendment to the lease with the team regarding adding a third phase of the renovation and the impact to the original agreement with the Blackhawks organization. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board she has requested Gordon Kaye work on the RFP for Wi-Fi in the arena and it will go out for bid.

Gretchen Gilmore reports that the local CURES funds reimbursements have been submitted and the payment notice has been received, with the surplus going to the Winnebago County Health Department. The focus will now shift to the Shuttered Venues Operating Grant.

Gretchen Gilmore gives updates regarding possible projects at Davis Park, the Coronado Performing Arts Center, and the exterior concrete work at the BMO Harris Bank Center. The fire inspector, the building code

official, and the electrical inspector did a thorough inspection at the BMO and items are being addressed and corrected and she will keep the board informed if the project becomes extensive.

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board of ASM Global initiatives including the ASM Global Acts and a new customer experience program to provide feedback from the guests to the venues.

COUNSEL’S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

None at this time.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Mr. Craig Thomas

Craig Thomas informs the board there have been introductory discussions with a group wanting to renovate the old Times Theatre and it would be prudent for us to offer some high-level review by Gretchen Gilmore and ASM of their proposals and perhaps take discussions to the next step. John Phelps highlights that the group requested a letter of support for the project but that it could only be provided with board support. John Phelps states that while he has concerns about the ability of the community to support more entertainment venues, he does see the possibility of the new venue adding to the culture of music and entertainment we are trying to foster in the downtown area and the possibility of future partnerships.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Martesha Brown, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, Michael Schirger, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Howie Heaton, Martesha Brown, Mike Dunn, Bobbie Holzwarth.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer