



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 23, 2022; 12:00 p.m.

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

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Craig Thomas Tom Walsh
Rudy Valdez Mike Dunn
John Phelps

Board Members Absent: Michael Schirger Howie Heaton
Martesha Brown Bobbie Holzwarth

Others Present: Alderman Frank Beach
Alderman Chad Tuneberg
Tim Rollins, Attorney

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

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:03 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 January 26, 2022, meeting were reviewed and approved.

MOTION: To approve the January 26, 2022, minutes made by John Phelps, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, Rudy Valdez, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Mike Dunn.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance**

Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair

No report at this time.

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

Craig Thomas suggests the board return to in-person meetings going forward. Tim Rollins informs the board that to participate and count towards the quorum, members must be physically present once in-person meetings resume. He notes there are some exceptions, including medical or health issues. A board member may call in to listen but will not be included in the quorum count. Exceptions of the Open Meetings Act are discussed by Alderman Frank Beach and Tim Rollins.

- **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**

No report at this time.

- **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**

John Phelps informs the board that Gretchen Gilmore is working on long-range capital improvements as part of the long-range re-negotiation with the city regarding the subsidy.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer

Tom Walsh defers to Gretchen Gilmore. Gretchen Gilmore reviews December events and attendance at the Coronado Theatre, Davis Park, and the BMO Harris Bank Center. Craig Thomas inquires to the attendance for the Harlem Globetrotters event in comparison to previous years. Doug Johnson and Gretchen Gilmore state that both Harlem Globetrotters and WWE Wrestling were very happy with their events at the BMO Harris Bank Center. Gretchen Gilmore provides the board with December IceHogs games in comparison to previous December IceHogs games to show the effect of the team sale with a more detailed analysis to come. Gretchen Gilmore discusses the financial forecast for the end of the year and informs that along with the construction plans and progress, and the debt services plan it will be included in current and future discussions with the city.

MOTION: To approve the December financials made by Rudy Valdez, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, Rudy Valdez, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Mike Dunn.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT – Mrs. Gretchen Gilmore, GM

Mike Dunn inquires as to how many dollars in terms of advertising and marketing support RAVE or the Blackhawks receive from the Convention and Visitors Bureau for marketing and advertising any of our events. Gretchen Gilmore recalls previous discussions with John Groh and Martesha Brown regarding a presentation on the topic and will invite John Groh to an upcoming board meeting to present the information. Mike Dunn

requests specific current numbers for this fiscal year of any advertising or marketing RAVE or the Chicago Blackhawks have received from the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Gretchen Gilmore states she does not have specific numbers to report but that there have been productive ongoing meetings with the CVB, and they are actively promoting events at the Coronado Theatre and the BMO Harris Bank Center. Mike Dunn asks if there has been any grant from the CVB in terms of dollars and cents to spend on marketing and advertising. Gretchen Gilmore answers no. Craig Thomas confirms that historically advertising with the CVB is in-kind and not with funds or grants. Mike Dunn requests further clarification of the CVB contribution and Craig Thomas suggests John Groh and Martesha Brown provide the board with a presentation and an historical recap on what has been done on behalf of Rave over the last few years.

Gretchen Gilmore introduces Doug Johnson to give the board a program update. Doug Johnson reviews current and upcoming shows and projected attendance. Gretchen Gilmore highlights the partnership with the Rockford IceHogs and the Hard Rock Casino, and informs that the arena hosted a Hard Rock night, and all parties were happy with the event.

Gretchen Gilmore gives an update on the arena renovation status stating that Phase One is almost complete and Phase Two is underway with some of the projects revised after discussions with the team. Bids for the LED screens have been received and are being reviewed by the architects and Pat Tobler. Bids for other renovation projects are also being accepted. A structural study has been done on the roof and the results are expected soon. Gretchen Gilmore informs that a Code Consultant has also been hired to study smoke control in the arena due to requests by the fire inspector and she will inform Chairman Thomas as to the timeline. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that the city has requested if the major exterior concrete project is being delayed, they would like an idea of patchwork projects that could be completed this summer on areas in need of repair.

Gretchen Gilmore updates the board on current CURES funding and informs that Gordon Kaye is working on final revisions to the Wi-Fi infrastructure for the building and that a bid advertisement will be going out soon. Staffing continues to be an issue for several departments. Gretchen Gilmore follows up on the ASM Global Acts program that was discussed at a previous meeting regarding the topics of the environment, investing in our people, and strengthening our communities. Gretchen Gilmore highlights efforts to fulfill these obligations through volunteering and ticket donations.

Frank Beach inquires if the outdoor LED board will be available for advertising and Gretchen Gilmore informs that the team does currently have advertisements on the board.

COUNSEL'S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

Tim Rollins and Craig Thomas discuss the upcoming revision to some of the renovation agreements.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mr. Craig Thomas

Craig Thomas informs the board there have been communications with ASM and the architects regarding revisions of the timing and scope of renovations at the request of the Blackhawks and he will keep the board informed of the progress.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Rudy Valdez, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, Rudy Valdez, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Mike Dunn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer