



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 22, 2020; 12:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Call 779-774-4672 PIN 0314

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Craig Thomas John Phelps
Martesha Brown
Mike Dunn
Rudy Valdez
Tom Walsh
Michael Schirger

Board Members Absent: Howie Heaton

Others Present: Alderman, Chad Tuneberg
County Liaison, John Butitta
Attorney, Tim Rollins
Doug Thornton, EVP Stadiums and Arenas ASM
Tony Cima, SR VP Arenas ASM
Thierry Grey, Regional VP ASM

Staff Present: Troy Flynn; Executive Director, BMO Harris Bank Center
Gretchen Gilmore; Director of Finance, BMO Harris Bank Center

Chairman Craig Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

APPOINTMENT – Troy Flynn appointed as interim Board Secretary & FOIA Officer

MOTION: Motion to appoint Troy made by Rudy Valdez, seconded by Michael Schirger. Motion passes unanimously.

MINUTES – The minutes from the February 26, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved.

MOTION: Motion to approve February 26, 2020 minutes made by John Phelps, seconded by Michael Schirger. Motion passes unanimously.

The minutes from the March 25, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved.

MOTION: Motion to approve March 25, 2020 minutes made by John Phelps, seconded by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CITY FUNDING

Craig Thomas defers to the Chairman’s report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance** **Mr. John Phelps, Interim Chair**

Craig Thomas defers to the treasurer’s report.

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

Craig Thomas defers to the Chairman’s report.

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

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

COUNSEL’S REPORT **Attorney, Tim Rollins**

None at this time.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT **Mr. Craig Thomas**

Craig Thomas states a letter to the City was previously circulated to the RAVE Board requesting funds to support vender payments, affiliation dues, league dues, and other expenses. The letter indicated RAVE’s operational efforts to mitigate expenses as the state’s guidelines forced the closure of the facilities and remaining IceHogs games. Rudy Valdez commented on how appreciative he was of staff in the quick action to mitigate expenses for the taxpayers. Tom Walsh remarked about the cash flow and furloughs and indicated the projection runs through June but may be longer. Craig Thomas agreed with Tom Walsh on the variables we could face and the importance of an evolving understanding of the entertainment industry. The letter is intended to be a one-time request get us through the fall but should be evaluated and may need to be refined based on further developments. Chad Tuneberg indicated the City had discussions regarding an extension of the line of credit to RAVE. John Phelps reiterated that a \$1.2M deficit necessitates the loan. Accounts payable also suggests we will need the credit line to get us through the summer.

MOTION: Motion to approve request from the City made by Rudy Valdez, seconded by Michael Dunn. Motion passes unanimously.

Craig Thomas introduces Doug Thornton and the ASM Global team to provide an update on the live events industry. Doug Thornton outlines his discussion points in 3 areas: 1. cost mitigation, 2. outlook on live events, and 3. reoccupation of the facilities. Doug Thornton explains the fixed costs that were immediately reduced equaling \$482K along with salary savings from furloughs of \$228K through June 30. The mitigation will most likely need to continue through July and potentially into the end of the year. ASM committed to deferring management fees for 3 months, like the Blackhawks affiliation payment. Craig Thomas acknowledged and thanked Doug Thornton for the deferral. Doug Thornton continued, saying 2,623 events nationally had canceled or postponed. Live events are looking towards booking in 2021 due to the economic risks and challenges with scheduling. Rockford's market competition and ASM's efforts to delivering programming specifically, Cher and Tim McGraw, are not going to be feasible due to the pandemic. He believed the Gaffigan dates in December would still be viable due to the timeframe. Doug Thornton proceeded to talk about restarting the industry and the different levels of risks in each market. The differences each market has will make it difficult to provide a uniform plan, rather best practices and new procedures will be provided to each client and applied to fit their circumstances. The attempts to lower and mitigate risks for patrons and staff will be the future of the industry. Cleaning, food and beverage, and bathrooms will be provided guidelines that will help accomplish the goal of opening venues back up. Doug Thornton believes the sports teams will lead the best practice standard that will be followed by the entertainment and venue groups. Michael Dunn commented that Doug Thornton's report was appreciated and helpful to better understand the changing environment. Craig Thomas thanked the ASM team for their presentation.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. John Phelps, Treasurer

Financials from February and March 2020 were reviewed via email from Gretchen Gilmore.

MOTION: Motion to approve February 2020 financials made by Tom Walsh, seconded by Martesha Brown. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Motion to approve March 2020 financials made by Michael Schirger, seconded by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

Mr. Troy Flynn, Executive Director

Troy Flynn updated the board members on initiatives and activities while the facilities are shut down. Troy Flynn indicated the rotating staff is working to stay relevant with their fans. The team social and digital activity has been significant and has yielded a great deal of interaction. Troy Flynn contributes the ticket renewal of 68% as a direct result of those efforts. Troy Flynn discussed efforts focused on the broadcast of the games along with interactive efforts to support business continuity. Alternate use for the venue to keep the facilities active are also on the agenda. Troy Flynn indicated that he has been in constant communication with peers in the hockey field as well as the entertainment sector to stay informed and identify opportunities or next steps. Troy Flynn touched base on the AHL scheduling discussions but identified that definitive direction had not been given for the end of the season or the start of the season in 2020.

CLOSED SESSION

None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – *Motion to adjourn made by Michael Dunn, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously. The Authority Board adjourned at 1:05 P.M.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Troy Flynn, RAVE Executive Director/Interim Secretary & FOIA Officer