



## AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, July 27, 2022; 12:05 p.m.

**Location:** Coronado Performing Arts Center, New Lobby  
314 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101

### MINUTES

**Board Members Present:** Craig Thomas      Howie Heaton      Martesha Brown  
Rudy Valdez      Mike Dunn  
John Phelps      Michael Schirger

**Board Members Absent:** Tom Walsh      Bobbie Holzwarth

**Others Present:** Alderman Frank Beach  
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 12:05 PM.**

Craig Thomas welcomes everyone.

**MINUTES** – The minutes from the June 29, 2022, meeting are reviewed and approved.

*MOTION: To approve the June 29, 2022, minutes made by Mike Dunn, second by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.*

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

No report at this time.

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

Craig Thomas informs the board that there will be meetings with the City of Rockford regarding the IGA renewal. It is agreed to put together a working group to supplement the capital plan and will include representatives from ASM, the Blackhawks, the City of Rockford, and our employees. John Phelps will serve as the board representative. The plan is to have the supplemental assessment completed by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Gretchen Gilmore states we need to be proactive, rather than reactive when identifying the needs of the building. Changes to the CIP plan will be made according to our needs. Craig Thomas states this will broaden the lens through which we assess the needs of the building according to our tenants and industry standards. Gretchen Gilmore reminds the board of the specific language in the lease with the Chicago Blackhawks regarding specific language such a “first class standards” and “comparable AHL building standards” and we want to make sure we are meeting the high expectations in the contract.

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

Craig Thomas informs the board that Phase One of improvements to Davis Park are scheduled to begin in August which will include the demolition of the Lorden building. Gretchen Gilmore tells the board the South end of the park will undergo renovations next summer.

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

Gretchen Gilmore updates the board on the progress of modifying the opera boxes for seating and we will be reimbursed for the cost by the customer who will be using the boxes.

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

No report at this time.

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

Craig Thomas states there have been meetings with Winnebago County Board Chairman Chiarelli regarding the filling of open board appointments.

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

Gretchen Gilmore states she would like to get this committee back on track and resume meetings to specifically discuss the self-promotion funds.

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

No report at this time.

#### **TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer**

Gretchen Gilmore asks that the board not approve the financials at this meeting and notes she has labeled them as preliminary due to it being year-end and due to having a large number of new staff still working on and reviewing the material. Gretchen reviews the preliminary financials from June. The increase in merchant fees and wages are explained and discussed. Gretchen Gilmore explains the area most in need of hiring at this time is marketing and reviews other open full-time positions. Michael Schirger inquires about cross-marketing with the Chicago Blackhawks and a discussion follows regarding marketing regions and strategies. When reviewing the charts comparing the financials the board discusses the higher-performing numbers at the Coronado Performing Arts Center and recent record-breaking attendance at events. Mike Dunn inquires about parking revenue and is informed that the city oversees all parking and the cost to our facilities is discussed. Frank Beach inquired as to problems in the parking garages and if patrons have a bad experience in the parking garage does it lower their satisfaction with attending an event. It is determined to ask the city and ABM if the money they take in for parking outweighs what they pay out and if it is worth them charging for parking.

## **GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT – Ms Gretchen Gilmore, GM**

Gretchen Gilmore reviews the program update and events from the past month. Doug Johnson reviews past events and updates the board on future events. There is discussion regarding the dates the Rockford IceHogs block off on the BMO Harris Bank Center calendar and the level of cooperation from the team in booking events at the BMO. The new proposed casino theater venue is discussed and how we will manage the increased competition or cooperation in the city. The current partnership with the Hard Rock Casino is discussed. Gretchen Gilmore gives an update on the renovations and the new ASM directed point of sales system for the building that is the same system used by the Blackhawks at the United Center.

## **COUNSEL’S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins**

No report at this time.

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

Craig Thomas informs the board about renovations at Riverview Ice House and how it will affect us and the IceHogs because the park district may need to use our ice facilities for youth hockey while their building is unavailable. Mike Dunn compliments the staff on the execution of the recent Rockford Peaches event and Craig Thomas asks Gretchen Gilmore to extend the board’s appreciation to the staff for the work on the event.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The Authority Board adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

*MOTION: To adjourn made by John Phelps, second by Mike Dunn. Motion passes unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer