



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, July 28, 2021; 12:00 p.m.

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

MINUTES

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

Board Members Absent: Howie Heaton Mike Dunn

Others Present: Alderman Frank Beach
Alderman Chad Tuneberg
John Butitta, Winnebago County Liaison
Harry Cann; Regional Vice President, ASM Global
Gordon Kaye, Consultant, Vandalay Enterprises
Tim Rollins, Attorney
John Groh, President/CEO RACVB
Beth Howard; Executive Director, Friends of the Coronado
Paul Nolley; Executive Director, Project First Rate

Staff Present: Gretchen Gilmore; General Manager, BMO Harris Bank Center
Mike Walsh; Director of Operations, 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 June 23, 2021, meeting were reviewed and approved.

MOTION: To approve the May 26, 2021, minutes made by Rudy Valdez, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, Michael Schirger, Rudy Valdez, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Martesha Brown, and Bobbie Holzwarth.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance** **Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair**
No report at this time.
- **Executive** **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**
Craig Thomas states he does not have a report at this time but invites John Groh from the RACVB to give a presentation. Martesha Brown gives a brief introduction and John Groh thanks the board for the invitation and discusses past collaboration between RAVE and the RACVB and discusses past efforts with the Rockford IceHogs and the ability to help promote and bring in future events as requested. Craig Thomas thanks John Groh for his update and tells him the board looks forward to continuing dialogue with the RACVB. Martesha Brown states that the RACVB will stay in contact with Gretchen Gilmore.
- **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**
No report at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer

Tom Walsh discusses the need to rebuild the staff and the new marketplace expectations for pay. Tom Walsh states the fiscal year has been completed and the board can look forward to the presentation of a budget at a later date. Gretchen Gilmore gives a summary of the June financials, explaining that expenses and utilities continue to be mitigated. Gretchen Gilmore informs that the Bearcom security upgrades are complete and reviews the various grants and their positive effect on the financials. Gretchen Gilmore notifies that event staff and food and beverage employees will be returning to work and expense will be on the rise. There was a necessary draw on the line of credit in June, but it was not needed in July.

MOTION: To approve the May 2021 financials made by Martesha Brown, second by John Phelps. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, Michael Schirger, Rudy Valdez, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Martesha Brown, and Bobbie Holzwarth.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT – Mrs. Gretchen Gilmore, GM

Gretchen Gilmore gives a program update on a weekend event at Davis Park and informs that there are currently twenty-two shows on sale at the Coronado, there has been an additional Friday Night Flix event added at the Coronado, and there will be a food truck festival at Davis Park. Gretchen Gilmore updates the board on the arena renovation status and the current bid packages. Gretchen Gilmore informs that there is an application in and we will need to go before the zoning committee for approval of planned exterior signage. Gretchen Gilmore gives update on Covid-related grants and re-opening status, including the hiring of a new Assistant General Manager, Doug Johnson, whom she hopes to introduce to the board soon.

COUNSEL’S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

None at this time.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Mr. Craig Thomas

Craig Thomas informs that the transaction documents have been finalized with the Blackhawks, the AHL has approved the transactions, and we are working with the Chicago Blackhawks to implement the terms of the agreements. Craig Thomas acknowledges that some board members may have been contacted by the Women’s March Rockford regarding the booking of an upcoming show and reminds the board that they do not approve or disapprove of performers but encourage the community to make their feelings known with their ticket buying habits and that any statements should be made by either Craig Thomas or Gretchen Gilmore. Craig Thomas states the new proposed agreement with ASM is under review and initial discussions with the City regarding our current and future agreements after the sale of the hockey team have begun. Craig Thomas invites Gretchen Gilmore to give an overview of Bid Package 5 for the board’s approval. Gretchen Gilmore informs that there was one bidder for the project and although the bid came in higher than expected due partly to increased materials cost, we are still under budget the overall project. Gordon Kaye states that he agrees with Gretchen Gilmore’s assessment in principle. Bobbie Holzwarth questions if the time constraints of the project lead to the decision not to rebid given that there was only one bidder, and the bid exceeded the budget. Craig Thomas affirms that time is of the essence, we are comfortable with being over budget due to other savings, and it is unlikely prices would be lower any time soon if it were re-bid.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the architects and award Bid Package 5 to Scandrol Construction with no alternates made by Bobbie Holzwarth, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes. Roll Call: Craig Thomas abstains, Michael Schirger, Rudy Valdez, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Martesha Brown, and Bobbie Holzwarth vote yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gretchen Gilmore asks Beth Howard to give an update on the Coronado Theatre marquee project. Beth Howard discussed new paint and new LED bulbs have been acquired that will add to the beauty and function of the renovation. John Phelps inquires whether ComEd will grant any incentives for the use of the LED bulbs and is informed by Beth Howard that incentives are not available for the product they are using.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Rudy Valdez, second by John Phelps. Motion passes unanimously. Roll Call: Craig Thomas, Michael Schirger, Rudy Valdez, John Phelps, Tom Walsh, Martesha Brown, and Bobbie Holzwarth.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer