



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, September 28, 2022; 11:30 a.m.

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

MINUTES

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

Board Members Absent: Howie Heaton Mike Dunn

Others Present: Alderman Chad Tuneberg
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 11:33 AM.

Craig Thomas welcomes everyone and states there will be a tight timetable due to the Hard Rock Casino groundbreaking ceremony.

MINUTES – The minutes from the July 27, 2022, meeting are reviewed and approved.

MOTION: To approve the July 27, 2022, minutes made by John Phelps, second by Michael Schirger. Motion passes unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Defers to the Treasure's Report.

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

Craig Thomas informs the board there is an ongoing effort among the board, ASM and the city, to update the Capital plan to make sure there are no other areas to be addressed, along with a second effort which includes the Blackhawks. He is hopeful the assessment will come around the targeted date of October 1st. Craig Thomas

states the assessments have paused the IGA renewal because when the board meets with the city, he wants to make sure the capital needs assessment is as accurate as it can be. Gretchen Gilmore adds that it has been a very extensive review with consultants and the working group who will discuss how to prioritize the construction progress and how to determine the funding.

Craig Thomas reminds the board that Pat Tobler, Gretchen Gilmore, and Gordon Kaye have been managing the project from a relationship with the Blackhawks and the renovation priorities and financial responsibilities have been resolved.

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

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board that the Davis Park Master Plan Phase One planning meeting is being set up for the renovations. The meeting will include Gretchen Gilmore, the Park District, and John Groh. Tom Walsh requests to be included in the meeting.

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

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

Martesha Brown gives an update on the Advisory Group and states she is happy with the community feedback they have received and states she will share the progress with the board before sending a press release regarding the group.

- **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**

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 brings the board's attention to the June 2022 financial statements and proposed budget before deferring to Gretchen Gilmore. Gretchen Gilmore explains there was a delay in cleaning up the balance sheet numbers for June 2022 regarding the sale of the team, resulting in a profit and highlights the payment schedule. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the ASM contract renewal and the corresponding line items in the proposed budget, as well as the various grants that were received and how the funds were allocated. There is a brief discussion to clarify the origin, terms, as possible use of the contracted interest-free loan from ASM which has not yet been received. Bobbie Holzwarth questions if there is an understanding with the city that RAVE would use the loan and Gretchen Gilmore explains she has put it in as the start of a capital reserve for the IGA renewal discussions.

MOTION: To approve the June 2022 financials made by Tom Walsh, second by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.

Gretchen Gilmore reviews and explains the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. Craig Thomas asks Assistant General Manager Doug Johnson if he is comfortable with the projected numbers in the budget and he answers that he

is and reviews upcoming shows and collaboration with a new promoter. Craig Thomas encourages him to reach out to the board for anything needed to make the promoter's experience more enjoyable. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the partnership with The Hard Rock and events at the Coronado Performing Arts Center and how it will affect the proposed revenue at the theatre. Gretchen Gilmore reviews and explains the projected expense portion of the budget. Bobbie Holzwarth questions if there has been a significant increase in health insurance costs and cautions that will likely be the case. Tom Walsh requests and receives information regarding the number of employees accounted for in the budget. Craig Thomas inquires about any open positions and is given an update. Martesha Brown asks about marketing strategies to sell the venues and is informed that once the position is filled a strategy will be developed. Michael Schirger asks what percentage of event income is projected to come from out of town and is told that while there has been no in-depth reporting the area hotels report higher capacity on our show dates.

MOTION: To approve the Fiscal Year 2023 budget made by John Phelps, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT – Ms Gretchen Gilmore, GM

Gretchen Gilmore updates the board on renovation delays and activity as well as updating on arena projects that are outside of the renovation, including wi-fi, lighting, painting, and exterior concrete work. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board a new "no-re-entry" policy will soon be implemented for both venues. There will be a press conference to announce the renewal of arena naming rights, and IceHogs tickets will be going on sale. Gretchen reviews the favorable changes Savor will be making to their food service in the arena. Doug Johnson reviews the scheduled programming and special events for the venues. Craig Thomas reminds the board that the Rockford Hockey Club will be using the BMO arena for some games during the renovation of the Riverview Icehouse.

COUNSEL'S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

No report at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mr. Craig Thomas

Craig Thomas informs the board he has been in discussion with Chairman Chiarelli regarding candidates to fill Michael Schirger's board seat. Craig Thomas suggests he would like to create a committee including a representative from the Hard Rock Casino to continue the positive relationship between the organizations. There is discussion among the board regarding possible candidates and to join the RAVE board.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

MOTION: To adjourn made by John Phelps, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer