



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 26, 2022; 12:00 P.M.

Location: BMO Harris Bank Center (Board Room – Lower Level)
300 Elm Street, Rockford, IL 61101

MINUTES

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

Board Members Absent: Howie Heaton Mike Dunn Tom Walsh

Others Present: Alderman Chad Tuneberg
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 12:01 P.M.

Craig Thomas welcomes everyone back to the BMO Center Boardroom.

MINUTES – The minutes from the September 28, 2022, meeting are reviewed and approved.

MOTION: To approve the September 28, 2022, minutes made by Rudy Valdez, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

John Phelps states it is difficult to compare year to year because this time last year things were just ramping up and this year we are fully staffed and praises the number of successful events so far.

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

Craig Thomas reports he has given his standard management interview with the auditors and Gretchen Gilmore will update the board on the expected timetable for the audit to be complete. Craig Thomas updates

the board that the Winnebago County board has a candidate to recommend replacing Michael Schirger on the RAVE Authority board and he expects he will be appointed some time before the end of the year and that there will be a new non-voting appointment coming as well.

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

Gretchen Gilmore reports demolition of the Lorden Building at Davis Park has begun and there has been a preliminary master plan, phase one meeting to plan the renovation of the park.

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

Gretchen Gilmore states the city is doing exterior concrete repairs at the Coronado Performing Arts Center. Gretchen Gilmore informs that the Coronado has to meet certain criteria for the city to receive exterior concrete grants and defers to Beth Howard for updates. Beth reports on “Magical Mondays” and that the third Monday of each month at Noon the Coronado is open to the public for an abbreviated tour of the building and an organ concert. It is a project conducted by Friends of the Coronado in conjunction with LOLTOS and has been very well received.

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

Martesha Brown states they are working to reformat the DEI report, so it is easier to read during meetings and work continues on the press release.

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

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

No report at this time.

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

John Phelps questions the concrete work at the BMO Center and is informed by Gretchen Gilmore it is emergency repairs.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. Tom Walsh, Treasurer

Gretchen Gilmore reviews the financial reports for July, August, and September. Craig Thomas inquires about the unusual scheduling of a show in July and is informed by Doug Johnson that the tour and promoter were both happy with the results. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board the budget columns in the report for August and September are not correct and will be updated. Tim Rollins informs the board the budget numbers are not part of the financial statement, but are more informational, allowing the financial statements for August and September to be approved as presented. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the August events and highlights the US Naturalization event held at the Coronado, informing that expenses started to rise that month. Doug Johnson and Gretchen Gilmore discussed September events and block parties and praised Ashley Minnick, the Director of Event Management and her staff for their ability to turn around shows efficiently. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board a new HR Representative will be starting which will free up the senior accountant to do more budget analysis to provide to the board. Gretchen Gilmore states she hopes to have the audited financials to report to the board at the next meeting. Craig Thomas reminds the board that in the past, due to the Holidays, the November and December board meetings have been combined with one meeting held in early December. He and Gretchen Gilmore will discuss scheduling that meeting and will inform the board of a decision.

MOTION: To approve the July 2022 financials made by Martesha Brown, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the August 2022 financials made by Martesha Brown, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the September 2022 financials made by Michael Schirger, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT – Ms Gretchen Gilmore, GM

Gretchen Gilmore praises those doing the renovations of the BMO Center, the cleaning crews, and staff for their hard work and ability to get the building ready for the opening night of hockey and reviews the successful pre-game events and high sales numbers. Gretchen Gilmore reviews the new naming rights deal with BMO Bank and the name change of the facility to the BMO Center. Craig Thomas emphasizes that we need to continue to do all we can to facilitate ticket sales with the IceHogs. Gretchen Gilmore informs that the marketing teams are in constant communication and always looking for ways to cross-promote events and we are enjoying a great partnership. Doug Johnson explains that the extra arena advertising helps to promote our events at the Coronado as well. Doug Johnson also explains that we have been able to pull patrons from Chicago and Milwaukee due to our lower prices. Doug Johnson reviews his discussions with promoters at a recent conference and his optimistic outlook for upcoming shows. Beth Howard informs the board that the REACH program for students is starting again and reviews the upcoming performances and activities. Gretchen Gilmore updates the board on the ongoing renovations including the timing of the escalator replacement and the complete renovation of the team store. Gretchen Gilmore states Phase Three of the renovation is on track. Craig Thomas inquires as to the Facilities Assessment and is informed the first meeting is today and they will review the Capital Improvement plan and how to move forward. Gretchen Gilmore invites the board to come in for a tour any time to see the renovated spaces in the building.

COUNSEL’S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

No report at this time.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Mr. Craig Thomas

Craig Thomas informs the board that in October he, Gretchen Gilmore, and Ryan Snider of the IceHogs, conducted an update for our Illinois representatives to show them the fruits of their investment in the arena. Overall, everyone was pleased with the progress and interested in the needs and activity in the building. Gretchen Gilmore agrees that the representatives are happy the renovations are turning into long-term relationships in the building, citing the Chicago Blackhawks as an example.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 12:47 P.M.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Rudy Valdez, second by Bobbie Holzwarth. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer