



## AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, December 7, 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      Bobbie Holzwarth  
John Phelps      Michael Schirger

**Board Members Absent:** Howie Heaton      Mike Dunn      Tom Walsh  
Rudy Valdez      Martesha Brown

**Others Present:** Alderman Chad Tuneberg  
Alderman Frank Beach  
Tim Rollins, Attorney

**Staff Present:** Gretchen Gilmore, 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 12:00 P.M.**

Craig Thomas welcomes everyone and states that due to the lack of a voting quorum all action items will be held until the January 25, 2023, meeting.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance**      **Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair**  
  
No report at this time.
- **Executive**      **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**  
  
Craig Thomas informs those present that Geno Iafrate has been appointed as successor to Michael Schirger and the new Winnebago County Board Liaison replacing John Butitta will be Kevin McCarthy. Chairman Thomas thanks Michael Schirger for his years of hard work and service to the board. Michael Schirger thanks Chairman Thomas for his leadership and offers his continued support as he leaves his board position. Craig Thomas updates that Doug Thornton, Executive Vice President, ASM Global, was recently in town and they were able to meet, and he also met with the Chicago Blackhawks. Gretchen Gilmore states Mr. Thornton is happy with the direction of maintenance and updates in the arena and offered suggestions regarding guest experiences at the BMO Center. A short discussion takes place among those present regarding how to make the guest experience better regarding point of sales services at the venues.

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

No report at this time.

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

Craig Thomas congratulates Gretchen Gilmore and Doug Johnson regarding the recent Chevy Chase event at the Coronado.

- **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**

Michael Schirger reports he has been asked several times if the On Stage events will be returning to the Coronado Performing Arts Center and discussion follows regarding bringing the series back with potential sponsorship.

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

John Phelps reports there was a conference call with the Blackhawks and IceHogs regarding their expectations for the BMO Center facility. A discussion follows regarding the renovations and which entity is expected to cover the costs and make final decisions.

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

No report at this time.

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

Gretchen Gilmore reviews the October financials. Craig Thomas asks for clarification regarding the TicketMaster revenues and Gretchen Gilmore outlines the shared percentages. Gretchen Gilmore gives a program update to the board and discussion follows regarding event expectations and sales. Alderman Frank Beach brings up the subject of parking and the possible frustration it poses for patrons. Bobbie Holzwarth asks if we have data regarding overnight visitors in correlation to our events and Gretchen Gilmore offers to inquire with the visitor's bureau to see if they have any data. Gretchen Gilmore gives an update on the arena renovation status regarding shipping damage to the new scoreboard and the escalator project. Gretchen Gilmore reports she has reviewed the RFP for the hiring of a consultant for construction and design of Davis Park with work starting this summer. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board there has been a new director of Marketing and Sales hired who will start January 3<sup>rd</sup> and Craig Thomas requests she attend the next meeting. Craig Thomas informs that Rockford Hockey Club has expressed an interest in having a tournament at the BMO Center. Gretchen Gilmore updates the board on renovations to the pedestrian bridge by the city. Alderman Chad Tuneberg reports that he has heard from restaurant owners that they see a spike in their patronage on our event nights and would like to see a larger spike during IceHogs games.

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

No report at this time.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The Authority Board adjourned at 12:56 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer