



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 28, 2019; 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 Howie Heaton
Mike Dunn Michael Schirger
Martesha Brown John Phelps
John Butitta Rudy Valdez

Board Members Absent: Sunil Puri
Tom Walsh

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

Guests: Jeremy Carter, Traffic Engineer, City of Rockford
Tim Hinkens, City Engineer, City of Rockford
Kyle Saunders, Director of Engineering, City of Rockford
Bryan Fairwood, Senior Vice President, TranSystems
Cory Staut, Client Executive, IMEG
Gina Trimarco, LEED Assistant Vice President, TranSystems

Staff Present: Troy Flynn; Executive Director, BMO Harris Bank Center
Lauren Hurt; RAVE Secretary/Staff Accountant, BMO Harris Bank Center
Mike Walsh; Director of Operations, BMO Harris Bank Center
Julie McIntyre; Purchasing/Office Manager, BMO Harris Bank Center
Kristen O’Halloran; Booking Manager, BMO Harris Bank Center
Gretchen Gilmore; Director of Finance, BMO Harris Bank Center
Mike Peck; Director of Business Operations, BMO Harris Bank Center

Chairman Craig Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

MINUTES – The minutes from the July 24, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.

MOTION: *Motion to approve July 24, 2019 minutes made by Howie Heaton, second by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance** **Mr. Sunil Puri, Chair**
None at this time.
- **Executive** **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**
None at this time.
- **Davis Park** **Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair**
None at this time.
- **Coronado** **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**
None at this time.
- **Governance** **Attorney, Mr. Tim Rollins**
None at this time.
- **Program Advisory Group** **Mr. Michael Schirger, Chair**
None at this time.
- **Capital Improvement** **Mr. John Phelps, Chair**
Mike Walsh updates the Board on the concrete repairs.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Sunil Puri, Treasurer

Gretchen Gilmore presents the July 2019 financial report. The financials show the budget is in review by SMG. Gretchen Gilmore presents the fixed asset acquisition summary for past and current projects such as the website update, the phone systems updated last year and the roof being fixed. The Board asks Gretchen Gilmore and Troy Flynn to reach out to the Rockford Police Department and any other outlets for assistance with locating grants available to improve our security at the BMO.

MOTION: Motion to approve July 2019 financials made by Mike Dunn, second by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

Mr. Troy Flynn, Executive Director

IceHogs Update: Troy Flynn asks Mike Peck to give an over view of the marketing strategy for the new IceHogs season. Mike Peck informs the Board that this year we will be using billboards beginning in September to promote the new season and opening night. Troy Flynn states there will be a season ticket holder pick up

party. Troy Flynn informs the Board on that same day there will be an NHL game against the Boston Bruins in which IceHog players will be recalled to the Blackhawks because the Blackhawks will also be in Europe playing an out of country game. Troy Flynn states that they are working on the broadcasting of the game at the BMO and having a viewing party. Troy Flynn informs the Board of the Stroll on State game and the BMO Center will be open before the game as a warming station and for activities sponsored by BMO.

Marketing Update/Events Update: Troy Flynn states he and Kristen O’Halloran will be traveling into Chicago to meet with the new Live Nation representative, as well as a Latin promoter. Troy Flynn reports the Jehovah’s Witness event has ended and they enjoyed their time with a few complaints about the homeless in the parking decks and coming into the building. Troy Flynn states these issues have been discussed with the City. The Windy City Bulls event will be announced in September and they will be coming to the BMO to play on a newly refurbished court in November. The new website launch should be in September or October. Troy Flynn states we are looking to have a naming rights sponsorship for the basketball court. There is a sponsorship package out to Fred VanVleet to sponsor the court and he’ll be able to utilize the court for non-ticketed events. In recent weeks the trees in the front of the BMO have been cut down and we are looking to put in planters similar to the ones on Main Street. The city has offered to provide these planters and in exchange they will be allowed a City day at the Coronado.

Corporate Sponsorships: Troy Flynn states full season renewed is at 73%; with the league average being 77%. In corporate sponsorships we are about 90% renewed, but we did lose Toyota.

COUNSEL’S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

None at this time.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Mr. Craig Thomas

Craig Thomas informs the Board that he has spoken with SMG representatives and asked them to provide their direct involvement in programming at the BMO. Troy Flynn informs the Board that SMG has offered a family event for the BMO with a guarantee of \$25,000, which is low. SMG has asked RAVE to use the promoter pool as a guarantee for the first \$20,000 loss. The Board advises Troy Flynn and Craig Thomas to go back to SMG and have further discussions regarding this risk. Craig Thomas informs the Board that he had a meeting with the Blackhawks representatives and the Mayor of Rockford as well as Todd Cagnoni. At the meeting the Blackhawks raised concerns with ticket sales decreasing in the last two years. They asked for assurances from RAVE and the City of Rockford that the affiliation is of importance to them. Craig Thomas informs the board that a letter was sent to Troy Flynn from Dan Fischer of the Hard Rock Casino group, reaching out to SMG and RAVE to promote their project and discuss a possible partnership.

CLOSED SESSION

None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kyle Saunders explains to the Board that there is a scheduled community workshop happening September 25 (regarding the conversion of Church St into a two-way street) and this meeting with RAVE is the beginning of the stakeholder engagements. Jeremy Carter states the traffic evaluation team is here to engage with the Board and have an understanding of the day-to-day business as well as any concerns RAVE has. Bryan Fairwood explains the current and proposed conversion of the one way streets and the process of beginning this type of conversion. Gina Trimarco explains the overall goal of this conversion. The Board raises their concerns with the conversion. Troy Flynn explains the daily and event day activities that occur around the BMO and Coronado in order to help the research team better understand traffic patterns and interruptions.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 1:32 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Hurt, RAVE Secretary/FOIA Officer