



AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 28, 2023; 12:00 P.M.

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

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Craig Thomas Rudy Valdez
Tom Walsh Megan McCoy
John Phelps Geno Iafrate
Dan McMahon

Board Members Absent: Martesha Brown Bobbie Holzwarth

Others Present: Alderman Chad Tuneberg
Alderman Frank Beach
Tim Rollins, Attorney
Kevin McCarthy, Winnebago County Board Liaison
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
Ginny Delorenzo, Assistant Box Office Manager
Ulises Picon, Box Office Manager

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M.

Craig Thomas calls the meeting to order.

MINUTES – The minutes from the May 31, 2023, meeting are reviewed and approved.

MOTION: To approve the May 31, 2023, minutes made by Rudy Valdez, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance** **Mr. Tom Walsh, Chair**
Tom Walsh defers to the treasurer's report.
- **Executive** **Mr. Craig Thomas, Chair**

Craig Thomas reminds the board there will be a RAVE Board retreat on August 24, 2023, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Chairman Thomas gives a brief overview of what will happen at the retreat and encourages members to email Gretchen Gilmore with specific matters they would like included on the agenda.

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

Gretchen Gilmore informs the board she and Doug Johnson participated in a full-day feasibility study at Davis Park with the architect, the city, and the CVB. Gretchen Gilmore states the meeting went well and they are excited about the coming changes at Davis Park.

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

No report at this time.

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

Gretchen Gilmore encourages the board to review the DEI Scorecard information she sent out and informs the board there will be new annual training for part-time staff in September. Gretchen Gilmore updates the board regarding the next free movie in Davis Park, sponsored by the City of Rockford.

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

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 states we are concluding the best year financially and defers to Gretchen Gilmore to review the May financials. Gretchen Gilmore explains that May performed as expected and reviews the financials in comparison to the budget, and gives a review of the May financials, explaining the Coronado Performing Arts Center had a record-breaking year. Gretchen Gilmore explains there is still a surplus forecast for the year.

Tom Walsh informs the board the budget is still being created for presentation. Craig Thomas informs new members of the board that the end of the fiscal year and the release of the Rockford IceHogs schedule coincide, which makes it difficult to produce a budget before late summer or early fall. Craig Thomas reviews the history of the City of Rockford subsidies to the venues and states there has been a dramatic improvement over the years.

MOTION: To approve the May 2023 financials made by Tom Walsh, second by Rudy Valdez. Motion passes unanimously.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT – Ms. Gretchen Gilmore, GM

Gretchen Gilmore asks Assistant General Manager Doug Johnson to update the board on programming. Doug Johnson informs the board there has been the successful implementation of a destination marking plot when event tickets are put on sale. To highlight the success, Doug Johnson informs that according to Pollstar, the BMO Center is ranked 160 in the world and 130 in America. Doug Johnson details the new marking strategies for the board and compares the success of The BMO Center to other venues. Doug Johnson informs the board Pollstar ranks the Coronado Performing Arts Center as 180 in the world and 145 in the nation and provides comparisons with other venues.

Doug Johnson and Gretchen Gilmore lead a discussion regarding upcoming private events at The BMO Center and non-traditional uses of the arena and other spaces with the ability to make it feel more intimate for different events.

Doug Johnson states we have moved away from the theatre going dark in the summer months and reviews booking strategies for that previously underused time.

Doug Johnson informs the board Rockford Public Schools will return to The BMO Center for their graduation ceremonies. Craig Thomas praises the dramatic increase in summer activity in the venues. Doug Johnson updates the board that with the partnership of the CVB and the City of Rockford, the Jehovah Witness Convention has signed a five-year deal to return to The BMO Center.

Gretchen Gilmore updates the board on the arena renovations, explaining the scoreboard in the arena will be completed and the new escalator will be installed. Gretchen Gilmore explains Phase Three demolition is wrapping up and the State of Illinois has approved our utilization plan as submitted. Gretchen Gilmore recommends Chairman Thomas approve the Alternate Three in the bid package, as previously voted by the board. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board the Exterior Concrete project has begun.

Gretchen Gilmore updates the board the marketing team is working on a new website to integrate all venues and TicketMaster. Doug Johnson explains the website will be created by an ASM-preferred provider, meaning we will be getting a discounted rate and the analytics from the new website will be amazing and give us the ability to focus our marketing strategies. Doug Johnson estimates the timeline for the new website to be about six months. Gretchen Gilmore informs the board the marketing department is working on an annual report.

Gretchen Gilmore updates the board there has been an engineering study for a huge capital project at The BMO Center and ASM Global Corporate will pay for a study on The BMO Center to analyze the operations, do a physical inventory of all mechanicals, and determine cost-savings and a possible maintenance contract.

Gretchen Gilmore states there is a ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 10:00 am with an open house to invite the community in to see the renovations. Gretchen Gilmore updates the restoration of the Owner's Apartment is 95% complete and Club 27 is back in the apartment and open during events, and other projects in the Coronado Performing Arts Center are coming to completion.

COUNSEL'S REPORT – Attorney Tim Rollins

Tim Rollins gives the board an update regarding the Brown Loft parking discussions with First Midwest Group. Tim Rollins informs the board he and Gretchen Gilmore met with the attorney from First Midwest Group to discuss what they would like and suggests we make a proposal to them.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mr. Craig Thomas

Craig Thomas informs the board he and Gretchen Gilmore presented at the Winnebago County Board meeting on RAVE's behalf. Kevin McCarthy praises their presentation and informs the board of favorable comments by the County Board following the presentation and says he looks forward to hearing from them again next year.

Craig Thomas informs the board that the intergovernmental agreement is in review for renewal with the City of Rockford and requests Alderman Tuneberg and Alderman Beech attend the upcoming meeting with RAVE and the city to discuss the terms of the subsidy and capital plans.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – The Authority Board adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

MOTION: To adjourn made by Rudy Valdez, second by Tom Walsh. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Jackie Powers, Authority Board Secretary/ FOIA Officer