

WILL COUNTY METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY

Date: April 26, 2017

Authority Memo Number **029-2017 March Regular Meeting Minutes**

The March 22, 2017 regular meeting of the Will County Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority Board was held at 15 E. Van Buren Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432. Chairman Bob Filotto opened the meeting at 4:00 P.M. with a quorum present and welcomed Board members and the public.

Present: Joe Carlasare, Donnie Chestnutt, Jane Condon, Bob Filotto, Tom Osterberger, Jeff Pierson  
Absent: Kathy Trizna, excused; Council Liaison Pat Mudron, excused.

Others: David Silverman, Legal Counsel; representing the Foundation Board, Lynne Lichtenauer, Tim Shanahan; representing IATSE Local 124, Lorin Lynch and Ed Rachel; and members of the public and the press.

Staff: Tim Berry, Interim Executive Director; future Executive Director Val Devine, Jack Ericksen, Dale Evans, Patti Fitzpatrick, Jan Gilligan, Leann Hoffrogge, Beth Jados, Annette Parker and Trish Stoner.

The Chair welcomed and introduced Val Devine, who will be the Rialto's Executive Director, effective April First. He reported that Val has already been deeply involved in working with VenuWorks and encouraged people to introduce themselves to her.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Authority Memo Number **024-2017 February 16, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes**

Authority Memo Number **025-2017 February 22, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Carlasare moved and Chestnutt seconded approval of A.M. 024-2017 February 16, 2017 special meeting minutes and A.M. 025-2017 February 22, 2017 regular meeting minutes, as presented.

The Chair called a voice vote and invited opposing votes. The vote was unanimous; motion passed.

Public to be Heard in Regard to Agenda Items

Re Consideration of Changing Meeting Time:

- A member of the public commented that she had seen no overwhelming vote for changing the meeting time.
- Mike Zigrossi said most school boards hold meetings at times that are open to all people. The Authority's meeting time is difficult for people who work. Whether attendance is up or down, it is important that meetings be held at a time that's open to all people.

Authority Memo Number **026-2017 Operational Bills Paid and Payable**

**Motion:** Pierson moved and Condon seconded approval of Operational Bills Paid and Payable in the amount of \$193,027.58.

The Chair requested a motion to approve and, with the motion on the floor, called a voice vote. Hearing no opposing votes, he declared the motion passed.

**Discussion:** The Chair confirmed that members had had time to review the report. He asked if there were any questions regarding any specific bill or item. Condon asked if workman's comp and employee insurance rates would be at a more favorable rate as part of a larger workforce. Berry deferred to John Siehl, VenuWorks' Regional VP. Siehl reported that, with 3500

employees, they are able to insurance at favorable rates; there will be a savings. The Chair asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, he invited a motion. With the motion on the floor, the Chair called a voice vote. No negative votes were expressed. Motion passed.

#### Authority Memo Number **127-2017 Financial Statements**

**Report:** To be distributed at a later date.

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### Authority Memo Number **021-2017 Consideration of a resolution changing the time of regular meetings.**

**Report:** The Chair reported having spoken about this memo item with individual Board members. All were well aware of the Authority's meeting schedule: 4:00 P.M. the fourth Wednesday of the month [November and December dates are based on the holidays]. Many Board members have family or other obligations that begin as early as 5:00 P.M. At this point, unless Board members feel differently, the meeting place and time will be here on the scheduled dates at 4:00 P.M. through the end of the year. The 2018 meeting schedule will be decided at the end of the year. The Chair invited other Board members to comment. • Carlasare said he thought it was important for the Board to consider the matter, but ultimately, it's important for the members to make it convenient for their schedules. The Board was responsive to the query from the public, the change of meeting time was considered in earnest. It is his hope that meetings will be recorded and made generally available to the public. • The Chair said it would be appropriate for representatives of interested groups to share the thoughts of their membership. It may be appropriate, at some time, for a presentation to be placed on the agenda. Ron Romero has been in touch with the Chair in regard to recording meetings. The Chair reiterated Chestnutt's suggestion that members of the public email ideas and concerns to Board members for consideration [FirstInitialLastName@rialtosquare.com]. Chestnutt said the important thing is that a dialog exist between the public and the Board and / or Executive Director. She urged the public to communicate with Board members. Communication is more important than setting a time when people can be here to listen to what the Board has to say. Chestnutt added that the Board is committed to do what is in the best interest of the Rialto and we hope we can continue to partner with members of the public to make that happen. Pierson suggested links to Board members be posted on the Rialto website. • No action was taken on this item.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

#### Authority Memo Number **028-2017 Committee and Executive Reports**

**RST Foundation:** Board Liaison Condon reported that the Foundation's Fundraising Committee met last week. Several fundraising activities were discussed, as well as future fundraisers. The Committee will meet in April to discuss further plans for those activities and fundraisers. Erickson said plans would be solidified at the April meeting. The committee will continue to meet throughout this year and next.

**Executive Director's Report:** Berry reported that the Rialto's forward momentum continues. The first half of 2017 City funding has been received and a favorable judicial ruling allowed the Authority to receive a loan from the Foundation to be used to satisfy payables 60 days or more overdue. Berry thanked the Authority Board, especially Chestnutt and Pierson, who reviewed, vetted and authorized payment of those accounts. Checks were cut and have been mailed. We have received a great response from the business community. • Rialto management met with City

Financial Director Ghedotti and Inspector General Chris Regis and are continuing and improving a positive relationship with the City of Joliet. • Berry and Filotto had discussed the possibility of the Board reporting to the City Council on the Rialto's progress. • Three Cirque D'Or performances and a Loretta Lynn show have been added to the season. School matinee presentations have continued with Pete the Cat on March 7<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, another show will be announced to the general public on Friday with additional public announcements anticipated. • In regard to programming, Berry said there are no bad shows, there are only bad deals. However, ticket sales aren't the only measure of success. Diverse programming to appeal to all established and new demographic niches in Joliet and the greater area requires outreach. There are many people in and around Joliet who aren't interested in the typical Rialto programming options. The balance between diverse programming and reaching and building diverse audiences will continue to be challenging. True art doesn't always make money. Everyone's continued outreach and programming input is welcome. VenuWorks is developing a policy addressing business, social and socio-economic aspects that will be presented to the Board in the coming months. • Berry said Devine has already made a very favorable impression on those who have had the privilege of meeting her. She will officially assume the Executive Director position on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. • Chestnutt reported that the vendors were paid in full. The Chair reported that some companies had charged interest and penalties. Negotiations will be undertaken before accounts are paid.

**Board Chair:** The Chair reported that he and Chestnutt had attended a meeting at City Hall regarding the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Acts. Print material from the session was provided to those who are interested in learning or refreshing their knowledge of the Acts. City Manager Hock informed those in attendance that the session had been videotaped and would be made available to interested persons. • Berry had suggested to the Chair that Board presentations be brought to the City. Pierson and the Chair have had talked with the Mayor and the City Manager, respectively, in the course of their normal routines and it has been agreed that in the second meeting of April, after the election process, the Board plans to make a short presentation to the City. The Chair and Vice Chair have discussed the opportunity to give presentations every six months, or when the occasion arises. • The transition of staff from the Authority to VenuWorks has begun. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, each employee received a letter of notification that their WCMEAA employment would terminate on March 31 and expressing gratitude, and thus, opening the opportunity for employment with VenuWorks and expressing gratitude for their service to the Rialto as Authority employees. The Chair recognized each employee: Jack Ericksen, 14 months; Eric Biedron, 3 years; Mark Busen, 7 years; Leann Hoffrogge, 9 ½ years; Trish Stoner, 12 years; Patti Fitzpatrick, 13.5 years; Annette Parker, 16.5 years; Kristine Hernandez, 17 ½ years; Jan Gilligan, 22 years; Bob Lousher, 26 years and Dale Evans, 35.5 years. The Chair also extended appreciation to Tim Berry, an independent contractor who has served as the Rialto's Executive Director since September. Berry has been an advocate for the Rialto. The help he provided to staff and Board during his tenure was invaluable.

#### **Board and Public to Be Heard**

- Rachel Ventura thanked Berry and stated that, as much as she looks forward to Devine bringing new ideas, Berry has been very open to ideas presented to him. She commended the Board for moving forward with the payment of past due bills.
- Lynne Lichtenauer noted the City had formed a Rialto advisory group and asked for news about the group and the responsibilities with which they are charged. The Chair said there would be further discussion with the Mayor, however when they last spoke, it was his impression that the Mayor was putting the advisory group back on the Board, which would be fine. The Chair said

there has been no discussion among Board members, but his priorities are long-term funding and the building issues. The Mayor provided a list of members' names; it is the Chair's understanding that the appointed leaders of the advisory group are Terry D'Arcy and Jim Roof. The Chair will confirm the Mayor's intent regarding this group at the next opportunity. • Condon said, it would be advisable for the Authority to meet with the advisory committee to address the overarching issues the Chair had noted. Carlasare said diversity may not be a topic for the blue ribbon committee, but it should be addressed by a committee of the Board. • Lichtenauer would like to see the advisory committee assist with fundraising and hoped the Foundation would have an opportunity to provide input.

- Ron Romero said he had discussed videotaping meetings with FaceBook groups who would be interested in accessing the videos. In response to the question, Silverman said the Open Meetings Act provides for recording public meetings. He doesn't think the use of such recordings is limited; obviously good taste and fair representation of matters put before the Board is appreciated.
- Should Authority Board meeting videos be posted online, Chestnutt suggested a ribbon requesting viewers 'Donate to the Rialto Square Theatre' be attached to the video.
- Mike Zigrossi thanked Carlasare for raising the topic of communication between the Board and members of the public and thanked the Board for considering it.
- Ed Rachel said the opportunity to be seen on public media may appeal to some individuals may take undo time on irrelevant matters. Time limits should be established and imposed on speakers.
- Ericksen announced that Jados and her husband are moving to Michigan. He said, from the moment he began working for the Authority, Jados has been a capable, dependable asset. She has been phenomenal for development and has made his job easier. She will be missed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion:** Chestnutt moved and Carlasare seconded a motion to move into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, termination and salary of employees in collective bargaining negotiations.

AYES: Carlasare, Chestnutt, Condon, Filotto, Osterberger, Pierson, Trizna

NAYS:

#### Discussion

Silverman stated that no action would be taken following executive session. The open session was closed at 4:35 P.M.

#### Adjournment:

**Motion:** Pierson moved and Chestnutt seconded adjournment.

The Chair called a voice vote; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Gilligan, Administrative Secretary.

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Kathy Trizna, Board Secretary

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