

WILL COUNTY METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY

Date: July 26, 2017

Authority Memo Number **053-2017 July 12, 2017 Workshop Minutes**

The Will County Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority Board held a workshop on July 12, 2017 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, Jeff Pierson, Kathy Trizna and Council Liaison Pat Mudron

Absent: Tom Osterberger, excused

Presenters: Dale Evans and Lynne Lichtenauer

Others: Ron Romero, videographer and members of the press and public

Staff: Val Devine, Jack Ericksen, Patti Fitzpatrick, Jan Gilligan and Marilyn McSteen

Public to be Heard Re: Agenda Items

Authority Memo Number **051-2017 Dedicated Funding Source(s) for the Rialto Square Theatre**

The Chair turned the meeting over to Evans who introduced Lichtenauer who read the following into the record.

The success of the Rialto Square theatre and what it means to the City of Joliet is written on the walls of the theatre's green room in the thousands of signatures of the performers who have graced its stage.

Diversity and demograph8cs are represented in the autographs of countless artists, such as Kenny Rogers, Jerry Seinfeld, Howie Mandel, Bill Cosby, Ray Charles, Perl Bailey, Count Bassie, BB King, Buddy Guy, KoKo Taylor, Robert Cray, Johnny Mathis, Charley Pride, Dionne Warwick, Rita Moreno, Los Lobos, Vince Gill, Johnny Cash, Melissa Etheridge, Lyle Lovett, the Chinese Acrobats, World Cup Champions on Ice featuring Olympic skaters, Robin Cousin and Elizabeth Manley and the Russian Gold medalists. Plus...Sesame Street Live and Elmo Live!

These are merely a few of the world-renowned performers who have brought millions of people to downtown Joliet who never would have come to our City if it wasn't for the Rialto Theatre.

Let's look at it this way...over four and a half million patrons have passed through the Rialto's front doors since it re-opened in 1091. That is an outstanding number! The theatre has generated sales tax revenue for the city coffers for 35 years, not to mention the hotel/motel tax revenue founded by the, then, WCMEAA Chairman, Chris Dragatsis, who brought the idea to the City Council in the early 80's.

Thing about it...if the revenues collected by the City due to the existence of the Rialto Square Theatre were added up, one would probably find that the theatre has paid for itself. The Rialto is not a "taker" as some would like to believe...but the Rialto is a critical participant in the economic benefits the City of Joliet derives from the Rialto audiences and the Rialto's vendors.

Thank you.

Evans had prepared some 50 pages of materials consisting of data from several Economic Impact Studies, Illinois Special Districts Civic Center Code, State and Local Civic Center Bond Investments,

Operating Financial Statements Fiscal Year 1994 through FY16 and Hotel / Motel Tax Rates and Sales Tax Rates. [See attached.]

Evans and Lichtenauer had participated in earlier efforts to secure funds for the theatre. They presented historic data and suggestions for determining dedicated funding opportunities to provide for needed repairs and upgrades in order to secure the future of the Rialto Square Theatre for the next 100 year and beyond.

Board and Public to Be Heard

All members of the public who wished to speak were allowed that opportunity.

Adjournment:

Motion: Condon moved and Chestnutt seconded adjournment.

The Chair called a voice vote; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Gilligan, Recording Secretary

Kathy Trizna, Board Secretary

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