

WILL COUNTY METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY

Date: March 28, 2018

Authority Memo Number **011-2018 February 28, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes, Revised**

The February 28, 2018 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 4:02 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, Kathy Trizna

Absent: Council Liaison Pat Mudron (excused)

Others: VenuWorks' John Siehl, COO, Joe Romano, Executive Vice President and Mike Piehl, Controller; Ron Romero, videographer; Rialto Square Theatre Foundation Board member(s), IATSE Local 124 member(s) as well as members of the public and the press

Staff: Val Devine, Jack Ericksen, Patti Fitzpatrick, Jan Gilligan, Leann Hoffrogge, Karen Leno, Micah McDade

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Authority Memo Number **011-2018 January 24, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Osterberger moved and Condon seconded approval of the January 24, 2018 regular meeting minutes, as presented.

Discussion: The Chair invited questions and comments. None were offered. **Vote:** A voice vote was called. 'Ayes' were heard. The Chair's request for opposing votes received no response. Motion passed.

Public to be Heard Re: Agenda Items – No response.

Authority Memo Number **007-2018 Operational Bills Paid, Payable and Payable Age Listing**

Motion: Pierson moved and Carlasare seconded accepting the operational bills paid, payable and payable age listing into the minutes.

Discussion: The Chair reported Karen Leno's employment began Feb. 1st. She was able to work with Dale Evans and Mike Piehl. It was requested that financial data be reported through the current meeting date. The Chair noted the report didn't include financial statements. **Vote:** The Chair called a voice vote. 'Ayes' were heard. The Chair invited opposing votes. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Discussion: Capital repairs and expenses are a major concern. The IGA now requires the Board meet with the City every quarter [and provide to the City Manager by March 31, June

30, September 31 and December 31 updates to securing a dedicated funding source from governmental and other entities]. The Authority must also have a long-term capital plan by July First, to include discussion with, as well as any outreach to funding sources. The Chair considers this to be a collaborative effort between the City and the Authority. • Jim Roof, in his position as CCP Chairman, contacted Mayor O'Dekirk regarding a meeting with the Mayor, City Manager Hales, the Chair and another Authority member. • At the Chair's request, Pierson reported the following interactions on behalf of the Rialto: Met with Congressman Foster and his staff regarding Federal grants (Pierson doesn't believe any Federal grants are available). Contacted former Congressman Jerry Weller regarding Federal funding ideas. Joliet Township was approached, but could not offer assistance. • Condon noted Will County has been contacted twice; Majority Leader Moustis reported the County gave \$50,000 to the Authority's Capital Campaign. Condon encouraged Authority Board members to meet with County Board Members representing Joliet districts to request funding from Waste Management to support the theatre. Chestnut reported that she, Devine and the Chair met with County Board members, Curtis Brooks and Denise Winfrey. At that meeting they were encouraged to prepare a presentation on the Rialto's impact in Will County (80% of Will County tickets sales are purchased outside of Joliet) for the County Executive which could be reviewed by smaller group(s) within the County Board membership. The County supports several organizations and some thought was given to including the Rialto with those others and holding a joint benefit at the theatre in lieu of independent events. • Carlasare feels strongly that the Board should meet with legislators regarding amendments to State Statute to align WCMEAA with the Springfield-MEAA re the ability to levy taxation. It was recommended to write to all of our State Senators and Representatives. Carlasare noted that, although he hadn't had time to research this legislation thoroughly, the Authority has bonding authority, but no corresponding taxing authority. Carlasare noted the *Joliet Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority* was amended to *Will County Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority* to reflect the greater population we serve; however no corresponding funding was realized. • Carlasare and Devine will draft a letter to be sent to the legislators. Carlasare suggested Mayors of Will County cities be contacted and asked to sign off on the letter. • The subject of Mayoral Council Liaison appointments was raised. Devine said the City appoints liaisons to the Boards of all entities receiving City funding. It was the consensus of the Board that if the County funded the Authority, they too could appoint a liaison to the Authority Board. • The Chair invited comments from those present. Lynne Lichtenauer reported Dale Evans continues to be involved in the committee seeking dedicated funding. She stated Evans believes the Authority should pursue the food and beverage tax Boone County has enacted. Rep. Manley has been contacted in this regard and is willing to assist the Committee. Carlasare hadn't heard Evans' thoughts on this matter. Lichtenauer will ask Evans to contact Carlasare. Members expressed confidence that a letter could be prepared by the regular March meeting. Osterberger said any property tax increase would be very minimal. Carlasare said the food and beverage tax may be the more politically feasible option. He also noted that the Authority may be able to levy a hotel motel tax. • Osterberger suggested the Blue Ribbon Committee organized by Jim Roof and Terry D'Arcy should be made aware of the Board's intent in this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

Authority Memo Number **008-2018 Ratification of Resolution 2018-001 Recognition of Dale T. Evans**

Motion: Condon moved and Chestnutt seconded approval of 008-2018 Ratification of Resolution 2018-001, Recognition of Dale T. Evans.

Discussion: The Chair requested a motion and with the motion on the floor, he called a voice vote. 'Ayes' were expressed. The Chair invited opposing votes. None was heard. Motion passed.

Authority Memo Number **009-2018 Signatories for Official Authority Documents**

Motion: Chestnutt moved and Osterberger seconded approval of the removal of Dale T. Evans, former Finance/Business Manager (VenuWorks, Rialto Square Theatre, Joliet), the addition of Karen Leno, Business Manager (VenuWorks, Rialto Square Theatre, Joliet) and the retention of Robert F. Filotto, WCMEAA Board Chair, Jeff R. Pierson, WCMEAA Board Vice Chair, Donnie F. Chestnutt, WCMEAA Board Treasurer, Kathleen K. Trizna, WCMEAA Board Secretary, Valerie Devine, Executive Director (VenuWorks at Rialto Square Theatre) and Michael P. Piehl (VenuWorks Controller) as approved signatories for documents requiring such signatures.

Discussion: The Chair reported Evans would be removed from the list of approved signatories and Karen Leno added. Other signatories shall be retained. The Chair requested a motion and, with the motion on the floor, he called a voice vote. 'Ayes' were expressed. The Chair asked if any were opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

RST Foundation:

Condon reported the Foundation Board had met on Feb. 7th. The RSTF finance committee had met; members discussed procedures for handling the receipts as they are received and designating them to the event and / or purpose in order to allocate funds appropriately. When a decision has been made it will be shared with the Authority Board. • The events committee met to evaluate the Home for the Holidays events and to determine whether disappointing events should be modified or eliminated. Ericksen reported the committee will meet again next month to discuss the Holiday events as well as other opportunities throughout the year. • The Chair reported the Auditors' Foundation management letter(s) note a deceased member's name remains on the Foundation's bank records. An active Foundation member should be assigned that responsibility.

Executive Director's Report: Shows: Devine reported on theatre events (which included a sold out show) and announced added show(s). In the next few months: 14 shows will be presented, as well as numerous rentals which include two 3-day dance competitions, between now and the end of April. Rialto shows currently on sale have exceeded \$900,000, which Devine understands to be more than some other VW properties in the area. Devine and Hoffrogge revised bar stocking and show prep procedures to better serve patrons at the larger shows. Staff: Devine introduced VenuWorks' Executive Vice President, Joe Romano; Finance Manager Karen Leno, and Marketing Manager Micah McDade and acknowledged John Siehl, Mike Piehl attendance. The Will County

Sherriff's office will present Active Shooter Training at the Rialto on April 18 at 6:30pm for staff, Volunteers, Board and Union members; those who wish to participate are asked to email Devine by April 10, subject: ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING. Devine forwarded to the City information intended to provide ongoing information on theatre activities, sponsorships, social media and financials, which we intend to update and provide quarterly. Siehl responded to a question about patron security checks, stating that it is evolving. At this time, it's unheard of at performing arts centers, but he believes that metal detection, wandng or walking through magnetometers will become standard in the near future. Operations: ComEd experienced a power outage that impacted 2RS and other nearby buildings for nearly a day. Earlier this week an electrician repaired fuse boxes damaged as a result of the outage. Repair costs will be submitted to ComEd for their consideration of reimbursement.

Board Chair: No report.

Committee Reports: Carlasare reported the building committee had met to discuss issues regarding the buildings and to assure that Devine isn't overburdened by these issues.

Public to Be Heard

Lynne Lichtenauer remembered the late Christo Dragatsis who was the first Chairman of the Authority Board and served in that capacity for over 20 years. He was instrumental in efforts to save the Rialto through his financing in 1972. Dragatsis took it upon himself to contact other civic centers about dedicated funding and brought the concept of a local hotel / motel tax which supported major capital repairs for many years.

Adjournment:

Motion: Osterberger moved and Condon seconded adjournment.

The Chair called a voice vote. There were no dissenting votes; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Gilligan, Recording Secretary.

Kathy Trizna, Board Secretary

*Unapproved minutes distributed in Board Packets are subject to change.
Approved minutes will be posted on www.rialtosquare.com /Public Information/Approved Minutes.*