

WILL COUNTY METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY

Date: September 25, 2019

Authority Memo Number **037-2019 August 28, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes**

The August 28, 2019 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 called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M. with a quorum present; Board members, staff and the public were invited to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: Donnie Chestnutt, Bob Filotto, Tom Osterberger, Jeff Pierson, Kathy Trizna and Council Liaison Pat Mudron

Absent: Tim Broderick, Jane Condon, absences excused

Staff: Kathleen Arko, Val Devine, Jack Ericksen, Jan Gilligan, Karen Leno, Micah McDade, Josh McGinnis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Authority Memo Number **030-2019 June 26, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Chestnutt moved and Pierson seconded approval of the June 26, 2019 minutes, as presented.

**Discussion:** The Chair requested a motion and, with the motion on the floor, invited a voice vote. Ayes were heard. The Chair invited opposing votes; none were expressed. Motion carried.

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

Authority Memo Number **031-2019 July 2019 Operational Bills Paid and Payable**

**Motion:** Chestnutt moved and Trizna seconded approval of accounts paid and payable in the amount of \$370,356.46.

AYES: Members Chestnutt, Osterberger, Pierson, Trizna and Filotto

NAYS:

**Discussion:** There was no discussion re July operational bills paid and payable. The Chair requested a motion and, with the motion on the floor, directed roll be called. Motion passed unanimously (see above).

Authority Memo Number **032-2019 August 2019 Operational Bills Paid and Payable**

**Motion:** Chestnutt moved and Trizna seconded approval of accounts paid and payable in the amount of \$366,405.63.

AYES: Members Chestnutt, Osterberger, Pierson, Trizna and Filotto

NAYS:

**Discussion:** The Chair had asked Leno to speak to the auditors regarding reversing the matter of a bill in Accounts Payable Aging, in the amount of \$56,281. The account had been dormant for an extended period of time. The auditors agreed the time lapsed would allow the payment to

be reversed. It will be removed upon completion of the fiscal year audit. The Chair requested a motion and, with the motion on the floor, directed roll be called. Motion passed unanimously (see above).

Authority Memo Number **033-2019 Financial Statements: June 2019** – To Place on File

**Motion:** Chestnutt moved and Pierson seconded acceptance of financial statements into the minutes.

AYES: Members Chestnutt, Osterberger, Pierson, Trizna and Filotto

NAYS:

**Note:** The Chair noted the first column of the yearend report appears to be skewed to budget, however the third column shows that we faired very well to budget. The 'Debt Ordinary Income' line estimated a loss before City Subsidy at \$536,000; actual loss was \$404,000, which he attributed to Devine and her staff. The Chair invited questions; none were offered. He requested a motion and, with the motion on the floor, directed a roll call vote. Motion passed; see above.

Authority Memo Number **034-2019 Financial Statements: July 2019** – To Place on File

**Motion:** Chestnutt moved and Osterberger seconded acceptance of financial statements into the minutes.

**Note:** The Chair noted the budgeted loss of \$78,000. Leno explained it was a timing issue; income for a public rental event hadn't been received. Chestnutt noted repairs were budgeted at \$39,000 and only \$13,000 had been expended. The Chair called a voice vote. Ayes were heard; no opposing votes were expressed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Authority Memo Number **029-2019: Review for Approval, May 22, 2019 Executive Session Minutes**

**Motion:** Pierson moved and Chestnutt seconded acceptance of the May 22, 2019 Executive Session Minutes, as presented. These minutes will not be released at this time.

AYES: Members Chestnutt, Osterberger, Pierson, Trizna and Filotto

NAYS:

**Discussion:** The Chair requested a motion and directed a roll call vote. The motion passed, as reported above.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Authority Memo Number **035-2019 Review for Approval: VenuWorks' Proposed 2019-2020 Budget**

**Motion:** Osterberger moved and Chestnutt seconded approval of the 2019-2020 Budget as proposed.

AYES: Members Chestnutt, Osterberger, Pierson, Trizna and Filotto

NAYS:

**Discussion:** The Chair noted the 2019-2020 Budget shows an increase over last years' budgeted income by about \$425,000 dollars, the bulk of which is due to rentals of rotunda, theatre, as well as, hospitality suite and event sponsorships. Another difference is the loss

of approximately \$194,000 of Two Rialto Square rental income. Expenditures increased over the previous year by \$173,000. Funds have been put aside as IATSE stagehand negotiations are underway. The Chair reported the 2019 - 2020 operating loss is projected to be approximately \$474,712. As a result the Chair, at Counsel Liaison Mudron's suggestion, met with the Mayor and Interim City Manager to advise them the Authority's subsidy could be cut to \$475,000. The Chair requested a motion to approve the budget. The motion passed, as reported, above.

#### Authority Memo Number **036-2019 Ratification of Lobbyist's Contract**

**Motion:** Trizna moved and Chestnutt seconded ratification of the Lobbyist's Contract as presented.

AYES: Members Chestnutt, Osterberger, Pierson, Trizna and Filotto

NAYS:

**Discussion:** The Chair said Arko had recommended Lobbyists Jake Miller and Shannon Miller who were responsible for successes experienced at the theatre where Arko was previously employed. Because the Rialto wasn't among the Will County entities named for funding, it seemed prudent to hire lobbyist(s). The Chair and Devine met with Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, Pat McGuire, and Natalie Manley (Larry Walsh, Jr. was unable to attend) with a detailed list of financial needs which came to just under \$10Million. A trailer bill is anticipated to have millions in available cash; \$2Million may be possible for Rialto projects. The Chair noted that Arko's previous connection with Miller and Miller was very helpful. The commitment to the Lobbyists is \$5,000 a month, instead of their usual \$10,000/per month, for six months. The Chair requested a motion. The motion passed, as reported above.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS

**RST Foundation:** Ericksen reported ComEd has confirmed they will be the Home for the Holidays, 2019 title sponsor. A press release announcing the Holiday schedule appeared in the Herald News: Nov. 25, A Very Rialto Christmas: Making Merry Music! Nov. 27 Hospice Lights of Love; Nov. 29, Teddy Bear Tea; Dec. 1, The Nutcracker (2 performances); Dec. 3, Luncheon & Organ Concert; Dec. 4: CeeLo Green, Holiday Hits; Dec 8, American Legion Band Concert; Dec. 9, Michael Londra's Celtic Yuletide; Dec. 11, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical; Dec. 14, It's a Wonderful Life with WJOL Radio; Dec. 20, Martina McBride, Joy of Christmas; Dec. 22, The Oak Ridge Boys; Down Home Christmas. Holiday movies will be shown on Nov. 30, Dec. 14 and Dec. 23.

**Executive Director's Report:** Devine announced that our previous technical director was needed in North Carolina to assist in a family matter, but she was pleased to introduce our new technical director, Josh McGinnis, who settled in quickly and is doing a great job. ▪ She reported 3 *Dog Night, Woodstock, Kristina Kuzmic, David Feherty*, including July and August 'REELS at the Rialto;' resulted in 4555 tickets issued. Five Young Audience Performances, sponsored by Midland States Bank, are scheduled for the 2019-2020 school year; Exxon Mobil has provided funds that would allow students who might otherwise be unable to attend a live theatrical performance. ▪ Eighteen weddings have been booked in 2020. ▪ Building Operations: LED lighting has replaced traditional bulbs on the marquee and blade. Broken glass on Chicago

Street has been replaced. Window clings featuring the Suite Life, weddings and general rentals have been applied to Box Office Windows. ▪ Professional cleaning of upholstered furniture and carpeting in public areas of the theatre were possible due to an anonymous donor's generosity. ▪ Rialto Ticket Office: An Assistant Ticket Office Manager was hired. This will allow extension of Ticket Office hours; on Tuesday's and Friday's the Ticket Office will be open until 7:00 P.M. ▪ Devine reported she will leave after the Donor Recognition event to attend a meeting of VenuWorks' executive directors, 9/11-12; she will return on the 16th.

**Board Chair:** The Chair announced the Mayor's appointment of Tim Broderick: he was sworn in, met with Devine and the Chair and is active in the community. ▪ The Chair acknowledged his appreciation to the donor of funds for upholstery and carpet cleaning.

Adjournment:

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

The Chair called a voice vote. Ayes were heard. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:29 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Gilligan, Recording Secretary.

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Kathy Trizna, Board Secretary

*Unapproved minutes distributed in Board Packets are subject to change.  
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