

WILL COUNTY METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY

Date: August 25, 2021

Authority Memo Number 072-2021 August 25, 2021 Regular Meeting

The August 25, 2021 regular meeting of the Will County Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority Board was held at 15 E. Van Buren Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432. Board Chairman Bob Filotto called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm with a quorum present. Board members and staff were invited to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: Bob Filotto, Tim Broderick, Donnie Chestnutt, Jane Condon, Bill Kent, Jeff Pierson; City Liaison, Pat Mudron and Legal Counsel, David Silverman

Staff: Val Devine, Jack Erickson, Nicole Hernandez, Leann Hoffrogge, Christine Sturm, Mike Piehl (via phone)

Absent: Kathy Trizna (excused)

Chairman Bob Filotto opened up the meeting by mentioning that the Rialto had a new business manager, Nicole Hernandez. He asked Executive Director, Valerie Devine, to introduce Ms. Hernandez to the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Authority Memo Number 0067-2021 June 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Discussion and Vote:

The Chairman asked if there were any changes to be made to the June 23, 2021 minutes. J. Condon asked that it be noted that it was D. Chesnutt who requested that the accounts receivable list of rents be cleaned up and not her. The Chairman invited further discussion and, hearing none, he directed roll be called. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** T. Broderick moved and J. Condon seconded approval of June 23, 2021 minutes.

AYES: Members Filotto, Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Kent and Pierson

Nays: None

Absent: Trizna

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Authority Memo Number 068-2021 Operational Bills Paid, and Payable Age Listing

Discussion and Vote:

Chairman Filotto said that the operational bills paid for the month of June were \$70,172.22. The four biggest payments went to the Busey Bank loan payment, two payrolls and Elliott Electric for an emergency breaker replacement. T. Broderick asked if the payment to Elliott Electric was related to the review done a few months ago in regards to the insurance. B. Filotto answered that it was not, that it was a completely different issue, not directly related but inter-related. The next item to be discussed were the accounts payable expenses of \$27,765.99. Filotto noted that the three biggest expenses were paid to Alphamedia, ComEd and Zurich Insurance which accounted for about \$17,000.

The Chair invited further discussion and, hearing none, he directed roll to be called. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** T. Broderick moved and J. Pierson seconded approval of accounts paid in the amount of \$70,172.22.

AYES: Members Filotto, Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Kent and Pierson

Nays: NONE

Absent: Trizna

Authority Memo Number 069-2021 June 2021 Financial Statements

**Discussion and Vote:**

B. Filotto said that in the last meeting it was requested that the Board move on cleaning up the accounts receivable statement which currently totals \$32,958.25. The majority of the aging receivables is due from one tenant. D. Silverman advised the board to contact his office regarding how to move forward with the tenant. Filotto asked if there were any other questions on the balance sheet. He then moved on the profit and loss statement. Over the past 12 months, it shows that there is a positive income of \$75,120.51 in spite of a \$367,607.24 depreciation expense. Filotto said the \$397,900.00 from the City of Joliet included the reimbursement for the audit. He said there was no other budgetary info to compare to.

The Chairman asked for any questions or comments. The Chair invited further discussion and, hearing none, he directed roll be called.

**Motion:** T. Broderick moved and J. Pierson seconded approval of the June 2021 Financial Statements

AYES: Members Filotto, Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Kent and Pierson

Nays: NONE

Absent: Trizna

Authority Memo Number 070-2021 GFWC Illinois Lease Extension

The Chair advised those present that executive session was required to discuss the lease extension with the GFWC Illinois Federation.

**Motion:** The Chair requested a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and to go into executive session.

J. Pierson moved and D. Chestnutt seconded the motion. The Chair directed roll to be called. The motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Members Filotto, Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Kent and Pierson

Nays: NONE

Absent: Trizna

The Board went into Executive Session at 4:21 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 4:23 pm.

Chairman Filotto asked for a motion to authorize Valerie Devine to sign a one year extension with the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs at the same rental rate.

**Motion:** J. Pierson moved and D. Chestnutt seconded the motion. The Chair directed roll to be called. The motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Members Filotto, Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Kent and Pierson

Nays: NONE

Absent: Trizna

Authority Memo Number 071-2021 SVOG

**Discussion:** B. Filotto informed the Board that the Rialto received a Shuttered Venue Operator's Grant (SVOG) of \$1,426,183.00. VenuWorks will prepare a statement as to how the money will be spent. V. Devine had drawn up a list of long-delayed repairs and capital improvements that need to be made in the theatre. The list of repairs totals \$2.235 million. Filotto said the SVOG money should be used for repairs and not operating expenses. He also stated that the Board looks to continue their relationship with the City of Joliet.

**EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

**RSTF Report:** J. Condon reported that the Foundation Board met in July. She said that Jack Ericksen is doing a great job with sponsors for Home for the Holidays and sponsorship should exceed \$75,000. The Home for the

Holidays events kick-off on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. A new event, "A Merry Little Soiree", has been added to the holiday line-up. There will be two seatings of 70 people on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Hill winery has donated the wine for the event. On December 12<sup>th</sup> there will be Santa's Secret Workshop for parents and children. Children will make a craft project while parents are able to play bingo. Drinks will be served for the adults. Teddy Bear Tea is scheduled for November 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. J. Ericksen said that almost all sponsorships have been bought for the holiday shows and sponsorships for the regular shows are also going well.

**Executive Director's Report:** V. Devine started by saying that she is very thankful to have her staff back at work. She reported that Jen Howard of the Joliet Chamber of Commerce had contacted Adrienne Bankert from WGN to come and see the Rialto. The News Nation episode highlighting the Rialto will air on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 am. Devine said there were no responses to the job posting for part-time conversion staff. She said she is very concerned with being able to set-up for events during a very busy season. She contacted JJC, USF and Lewis University for help but got no responses. D. Chestnutt said she should try to post on the United Way volunteer board. Lastly, Devine said the Rialto Foundation Board has hired Shawn Booth to do an evening performance for Black History month. It will be the Foundation's first fundraiser for the year in 2022.

**Chairman's Report:** B. Filotto said that he, V. Devine and John Siehl have been researching ways to keep patrons safe from COVID. He noted that most patrons were not masked for the Dwight Yoakum show. He said that many theaters are adopting stricter policies requiring vaccinations and masks. The Board discussed their options and came to the consensus to keep following the CDC guidelines to recommend mask wearing while inside the theatre. Filotto informed the Board that Foundation Board President, Steve Randich, is looking into getting federal tax credits for major capital renovations through the Tax Credit Redevelopment Plan. Randich is working with Midland States Bank. The bank has worked with developers in the past and will introduce them to the Rialto. Filotto said there is currently 40,000 square feet of unusable office space in the building. He said by renovating these spaces, they could generate more income for the theatre. Filotto also asked V. Devine if a budget for the upcoming year could be prepared in the next 60 days.

**Committee Reports:** No reports.

**PUBLIC TO BE HEARD** – No response.

**Motion:** Board Chairman B. Filotto requested a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. D. Chestnut moved and J. Pierson seconded the motion.

AYES: Members Filotto, Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Kent and Pierson.

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Trizna

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Sturm, Recording Secretary.

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Kathy Trizna, Board Secretary

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