

WILL COUNTY METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY

Date: December 15, 2021

Authority Memo Number **093-2021 December 15, 2021 Regular Meeting**

The December 15, 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 4:04 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; City Liaison, Pat Mudron; Legal Counsel, David Silverman

Staff: Val Devine, Jack Erickson, Nicole Hernandez, Christine Sturm

Absent: Jeff Pierson (excused), Kathy Trizna (excused)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Authority Memo Number **088-2021 November 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Discussion and Vote:

The Chairman asked if there were any changes to be made to the November 17, 2021 minutes. No corrections or changes were suggested. The Chair invited further discussion and, hearing none, he called for a voice vote. No opposing votes were expressed. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: T. Broderick moved and J. Condon seconded approval of November 17, 2021 minutes.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pierson, Trizna

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Authority Memo Number **089-2021 Operational Bills Paid, Payable and Payable Age Listing**

Discussion and Vote:

Filotto began by saying that the problems with the new system are still being worked out and the financial reports are still not as they should be. He asked if there were any questions on the check detail or accounts payable by vendor. Broderick asked about the check to Mammoth for \$13,527.08. Devine said it was co-pro expense from the Dwight Yoakam concert in August. Condon asked about the check to Gand Concert Sound for \$500. Devine said that is the rental for the sound system.

Filotto then asked if there were questions on the accounts receivable aging report. Chestnutt asked if Tyus was paying on his back rent. Hernandez said he was and that he was on time with the schedule that was given to him. Condon asked if Brauer was behind on his rent payments. Hernandez said he was two months behind but she expected him to pay in full soon. Hernandez also pointed out that the University of St. Francis was behind on their rent but that was due to a new person being hired. The new employee did not receive the emailed invoice but Hernandez was in contact with her and they should be paying soon.

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

Motion: D. Chestnutt moved and T. Broderick seconded approval of checks paid and payroll through 9/30/21 in the amount of \$281,176.84 and accounts payable for \$69,364.30.

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: Pierson, Trizna

Authority Memo Number **090-2021 Financial Statements**

Discussion and Vote:

The Chair asked for any questions or comments regarding the P&L Summary that was presented. He noted that this was only through September 30th and did not include October or November figures. Filotto said that the projected loss in the budget was \$300,000 but the actual loss was slightly better at \$244,000. He asked if there were any questions. Chestnutt asked why the liquor costs were so high. Devine said that it was due to the Halestorm concert.

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

Motion: J. Condon moved and D. Chestnutt seconded approval of the September 2021 Financial Statements.

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: Pierson, Trinza

Authority Memo Number **091-2021 Approval to Hire Elliott Electric for Electrical Repairs**

Discussion and Vote:

The Chair said that a vote did not have to be taken to hire Elliott Electric as the company was already hired. The repairs would start on Monday, December 20 and would be done by the end of the year. Silverman said the Board needs approval to ratify the contract with Elliott Electric for \$10,000 in case there were additional expenses.

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

Motion: D. Chestnutt moved and T. Broderick seconded a motion approve the contract with Elliott Electric for \$10,000.00.

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

Nays: NONE

Absent: Pierson, Trizna

Authority Memo Number **092-2021 DLR Bathroom Remodel Options**

Discussion and Vote:

The Chair said DLR presented two options for the remodel of the Rialto bathrooms. He requested a third: women's restrooms on the north side of the Rotunda, men's on the south side of the Rotunda and a separate single handicap stall. Silverman reminded the Board that the project will need to be put to a bid. The Board just needed to authorize the preparation of the bid documents. He recommended that the Board first do a cost estimate before preparing the bid documents. Devine said she would follow up with DLR. Filotto said there would be no vote on the project at this time.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

RSTF Report: Condon began by asking Ericksen to give an update on the remaining holiday events. Ericksen said that the first *Merry Little Soiree* sold out and it looked like the second one would also. He said that there was only the American Legion concert and two holiday movies left to the holiday season. Ericksen thanked the members from both the WCMEAA Board and the Foundation Board who helped with the set-up and take-down of tables for the various shows. Condon asked Devine how *Santa's Secret Workshop* went. Devine said that it went well considering that it was a new event. She said that it did not sell out but those who attended, enjoyed themselves. She said that more raffle tickets were bought at Santa's Secret Workshop than at the Garrison Keillor show. Condon said that there will be a Foundation meeting in January. She reported that Sue Gulas, who helped with Home for the Holidays, was also working with the Foundation for a St. Patrick's Day fundraiser. The show is being planned for March 18 and will feature Tim Placher.

Executive Director's Report: Devine began with a review of 2021. She said she was here in the building 185 days without staff; three staff left during COVID; two new employees were hired; one new Board member was added; before employees returned there were a few weddings, dance competitions and filming of The Big Leap; after employees returned there were 10 events in July, 10 events in August, 12 events in September, 14 events in October with 7 days of The Big Leap filming, 19 events in November with 5 days of The Big Leap filming and 22 events in December; raffle ticket sales were \$500 more than the totals in 2019; in the six months since the theater has reopened, Jack Ericksen surpassed the fundraising of 2019; the long-awaited bathroom project finally began; and the IR testing will begin on December 20th. She said that she was very grateful to have her staff back and for all the support given to her by the Board members during such a difficult time. She also informed the Board that Josh Lindmark will be hired on as a full-time engineer. Devine said that she is looking into updating the green room as much as possible while being mindful of the stars' signatures on the walls. She said there were 12 shows currently on sale and at least 12 more on hold. She was informed by VenuWorks that the Rialto was the busiest of all their venues during the holiday season this year.

Broderick said that it was very significant that the Rialto was the busiest of all VenuWorks properties. He felt it was an important metric for the Joliet City Council to know that their money is being invested wisely and producing results. Devine said that during the *My Name Is Not Mom* show, the Chicago Street Pub was full by 4:30 and was sending patrons to MyGrain, Blue Taco and Chevere. At one point 80 people were in Blue Taco. Juliet's and Cut 158 were also full. She believes that the Rialto is doing its part in bringing people to downtown Joliet.

Chairman's Report: Filotto wanted the Board to be aware that he and Devine were in constant contact about the \$375,000 subsidy for the Rialto the City of Joliet has in its budget. He said the Board will not be making a presentation at the budget meeting this year. He also wanted to add his thanks to Devine, the Board and the Rialto staff for all their dedication and hard work this year. He said he was able to thank Devine publically at an awards breakfast recently. Lastly, he said he would like to see the carpeting in the administration office replaced. He feels that it is a tripping hazard.

Committee Reports: No reports.

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

P. Mudron informed the Board that he brought up the \$475,000 subsidy to Jim Ghedotte and mentioned it again at the workshop. Mudron said he reminded Ghedotte that the Rialto was to get \$475,000 from the raffle being held by the City but that the raffle was cancelled. Mudron said that Larry Hug felt that the Rialto should not get any money from the City. He also said the Hug and Jan Quillman asked him why the Rialto wasn't spending any of the SVOG money it received. Mudron said he told them about the repairs on the building that the money was designated for. Mudron said that Mayor O'Dekirk believes that the Rialto should get money from the County.

Mudron told him that the Rialto Board has spoken to the County. He is not aware that the County has given out any of the pandemic funds that it received. Mudron said the City also was not planning on giving out any of the COVID money that it received to special interest groups. So far, the City is only planning on using one million dollars to buy body cameras for the police department. Filotto said that he feels that the Board should make a presentation to the City in January to inform them on the bathroom expansion project. Filotto thanked Mudron for all his work that he has done for the Board as liaison to the City.

Motion: The Chairman requested a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. J. Condon moved and T. Broderick seconded the motion.

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Pierson, Trizna

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Sturm, Recording Secretary.

Kathy Trizna, Board Secretary

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