

WILL COUNTY METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY

Date: November 19, 2025

Authority Memo Number **046-2025 November 19, 2025 Regular Meeting**

The November 19, 2025 regular meeting of the Will County Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority Board was held at 15 E. Van Buren Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432. Vice Chairman Jeff Pierson called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm with a quorum present. Board members and staff were invited to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: Tim Broderick, Donnie Chestnutt, Jane Condon, Jeff Pierson, Kathy Trizna

Absent: Bob Filotto, Bill Kent (excused)

Staff: Wade Welsh, Shane Richards, Kathleen Haberkorn, Emily Carey, Leann Hoffrogge, Christine Sturm

Others: Steve Randich

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Authority Memo Number **042-2025 October 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Discussion and Vote:

The Vice Chairman asked if there were any changes to be made to the October 22, 2025 regular meeting minutes. No corrections or changes were suggested.

The Vice Chair invited further discussion and, hearing none, he called for a voice vote. No opposing votes were expressed. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: J. Condon moved and T. Broderick seconded approval of the October 22, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

AYES: Members Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Pierson, Trizna

ABSENT: Filotto, Kent

NAYS: None

Public to be Heard Re: Agenda Items – None.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Authority Memo Number **043-2025 Operational Bills Paid, Payable and Payable Age Listing**

Discussion and Vote:

Chestnutt said the checks paid in October totaled \$492,892. The six largest checks totaled \$233,268. She said that everything paid out was customary. She had no other questions or comments on the check detail.

The Vice Chairman invited further discussion and, hearing none, he directed roll to be called. No opposing votes were expressed. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: T. Broderick moved and K. Trizna seconded approval of accepting the Operational Bills Paid, Payable and Payable Age Listing into the minutes.

AYES: Members Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Pierson, Trizna

ABSENT: Filotto, Kent

NAYS: None

Authority Memo Number **044-2025 Financial Statements**

Discussion and Vote:

Chestnutt said that for the period ending October 31, 2025, total income was \$453,017, slightly under the budget of \$480,594. Income YTD was \$876,756. It continued to exceed the YTD budget of \$823,098. Cost of goods for the period was \$15,330. It was budgeted to be \$24,473. Gross operating profit for the period was \$437,688 which was slightly under the budgeted amount of \$456,120. Total expenses for the period were \$392,417, slightly above the budgeted \$384,265. Expenses YTD are \$1,060,804 and budgeted to be \$1,011,394.

Chestnutt asked about the \$9,191 that was posted under account #8200 RSTF Grants/Endowment Support. Welsh said it was for either the parking lot repairs, the IT upgrade or the seat repairs. He said that either he or Haberkorn will look it up for the actual expense.

Chestnutt said that Net Income for the year was \$12,807 versus the budget of \$34,533. Net Income YTD was a negative \$245,226 but was budgeted to be a negative \$377,699. Welsh explained that it was lack of tickets sales that caused the numbers to fall short. He said that even though there were a good number of shows, they didn't sell the way he expected. He feels confident for sales in November and December. He said that ticket sales are extremely soft nationwide. The Rialto is doing better than most but VenuWorks as a whole had a rough year. They are seeing much softer sales for repeat shows. Welsh said he has asked the promoters to look for new acts.

The Vice Chairman invited further discussion and, hearing none, he directed roll to be called. No opposing votes were expressed. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: T. Broderick moved and K. Trizna seconded approval of accepting the Financial Statements into the minutes.

AYES: Members Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Pierson, Trizna

ABSENT: Filotto, Kent

NAYS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Authority Memo Number **045-2025 Approval of the 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule**

Discussion and Vote:

Welsh presented the regular meeting schedule for 2026. All meetings will fall on the fourth Wednesday of the month except for November and December 2026. Those meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month because of the holidays.

The Vice Chairman invited further discussion and, hearing none, he directed roll to be called. No opposing votes were expressed. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: T. Broderick moved and D. Chestnutt seconded approval of the 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule.

AYES: Members Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Pierson, Trizna

ABSENT: Filotto, Kent

NAYS: None

OLD BUSINESS

Renovation Project Update: Welsh said he has asked Jim Murphy to get the construction manager contract completed as soon as possible so they may finalize the contracts with the subcontractors. He is expecting the contract with Bulley & Andrews to be done by November 21st. Work for the HVAC project will not start until March 2026.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

RSTF Report: Condon said the Foundation Board did not meet last month but the Gala committee has been meeting. She said the dates have been set for the four events planned for the 100 year celebration: March 12, 2026 Business After Hours; April 14, 2026 senior organ concert and silent film; May 3, 2026 public reception; and May 16, 2026 Gala. The anniversary book for the Rialto has gone to print. The Foundation is getting 1,000 copies printed and will be giving some of them to those who attend the Gala. The other books will be available for \$24.99. The Foundation is working with Shaw Media on a pull-out section that will go into the Herald News. Condon and Randich met with the journalist who will be writing the article. The pull-out section will go out to 25,000-35,000 homes early next year. The total amount of sponsorships raised for the Gala to date is \$377,000. The mayor has helped to get some large sponsorships secured. Dante DiBartolo who did the mural for the front of the building will be doing a painting for the Gala that will be raffled off. Broderick asked when the books will be delivered. Randich said they might come in December but are more likely to arrive in January.

Condon reported that Ericksen has gotten \$120,000 in HFTH sponsorships for 2025 and has surpassed what was raised last year. Both Merry Little Soirees have sold out and there is only one ticket available for the two Teddy Bear Tea sittings. Condon said that volunteers are still needed for the Teddy Bear Teas and asked for help from anyone who is available.

Executive Director's Report: Welsh said the building is experiencing some major plumbing issues. On November 16th during a show, water had to be shut off backstage due to a backflow of sewage. The issue was occurring in the basement as well. There was a plumber on standby for the November 18th show and the same problems occurred. He said a plumber will be on site on November 20th at 7:30 am to jet out the pipes suspected to be causing the issues. There is some concern that it might be a City issue and he has made the City aware of it. Since the jetting could create a mess, ServPro of Bolingbrook will be on hand for cleanup if necessary.

Welsh said that Home for the Holidays is in full swing. There are five shows scheduled over the next six days and events are scheduled on every weekend until Christmas.

Chairman's Report: No report.

Committee Reports: No report.

City of Joliet Liaison's Report: Reardon reported that the River's Edge Tax Credit Program application has been completed. It was brought to a hearing at a City Council meeting. The ordinance was voted on and approved to go to the State. The State has the application. The scope of the area was changed from the area covering downtown Joliet to the Des Plaines River. It now extends all the way to the Louis Joliet Mall. Reardon said she has no time frame for when the State will act on the application. Welsh said the State has six months to respond.

Lobbyists' Report: Welsh said he has a phone call scheduled with the lobbyists the first week of December. They are currently trying to get the Governor and/or any other dignitaries to attend the Gala.

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD: - None.

Motion: The Vice Chairman requested a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. D. Chestnutt moved and T. Broderick seconded the motion.

AYES: Members Broderick, Chestnutt, Condon, Pierson, Trizna

ABSENT: Filotto, Kent

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Sturm, Recording Secretary.

Kathy Trizna, Board Secretary

Unapproved minutes distributed in Board Packets are subject to change.

Approved minutes shall be posted on www.rialtosquare.com /Public Information/Approved Minutes.