

WILL COUNTY METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY

Date: December 17, 2025

Authority Memo Number **049-2025 December 17, 2025 Regular Meeting**

The December 17, 2025 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 4:00 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, Jeff Pierson

Absent: Bill Kent, Kathy Trizna (excused)

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

Others: Sherri Reardon, City Liaison; Jim Murphy, Legal Counsel; HR Cook, VenuWorks

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Discussion and Vote:

The Chairman asked if there were any changes to be made to the November 19, 2025 regular meeting 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: D. Chestnutt moved and T. Broderick seconded approval of the November 19, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

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

ABSENT: Kent, Trizna

NAYS: None

Public to be Heard Re: Agenda Items – None.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Authority Memo Number **047-2025 Operational Bills Paid, Payable and Payable Age Listing**

Discussion and Vote:

Chestnutt said the checks paid in November totaled \$707,925. The 12 largest checks totaled \$594,504. Welsh said that the check for \$146,248 was for the Teresa Caputo show. The total paid to VenuWorks in November was \$52,895. Chestnutt said she did not see anything out of the ordinary in the accounts payable report. She said that the Authority is still waiting for the \$260 for the Naturalization Ceremony from the State of Illinois.

The 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 J. Condon seconded approval of accepting the Operational Bills Paid, Payable and Payable Age Listing into the minutes.

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

ABSENT: Kent, Trizna

NAYS: None

Authority Memo Number **048-2025 Financial Statements**

Discussion and Vote:

Chestnutt said that for the period ending November 30, 2025, total income was \$590,287, slightly above the budget of \$547,826. Income YTD was \$1,467,043. It continued to exceed the YTD budget of \$1,370,923 by \$93,120. Chestnutt noted that Food & Beverage income was down about 20%, \$100,259 versus \$125,750. Welsh said that there were fewer rock and country concerts which meant less beer was sold. He said there were a few more concerts booked for the first quarter of 2026. Gross operating profit for the period was \$572,780 which was better than the budgeted amount of \$520,789 by \$51,991 and better YTD by \$117,191.

Total expenses for the period were over budget by \$36,025 and \$85,435 for the year. Welsh said that there were more shows, thus more expenses.

Chestnutt said that Net Ordinary Income for the period was \$141,753 and was budgeted to be \$125,788, which was \$15,965 better than expected. For the year, it was budgeted to be a loss of \$102,129 but is only a loss of \$70,373 which is better than budgeted by \$31,756. Net Income ending November 30, 2025 was \$105,476 and was budgeted to be \$88,791 which was better by \$16,685 for the period.

The 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 J. Pierson seconded approval of accepting the Financial Statements into the minutes.

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

ABSENT: Kent, Trizna

NAYS: None

OLD BUSINESS

Renovation Project Update: No report.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

RSTF Report: Condon said there were four events left for the holiday season and raffle basket ticket sales were down slightly. She said sales were \$35,000 last year and now stand at \$27,600. She said that there will be an online push for ticket sales beginning tomorrow. She reported that the soirees and teddy bear teas did well. Jingle Mingle had 89 people attend the event.

The Foundation Board is looking for sponsorships from large contractors in the area. Randich has asked Mayor D'Arcy for help in securing sponsorships from these contractors. These sponsorships will not include a table at the Gala. There has been \$410,000 raised in sponsorships to date. The book for the Gala is expected to be delivered by January 7th.

Executive Director's Report: Welsh told Board members that the staff has worked 37 of the past 38 days. The one day off was Thanksgiving. He feels that November should be the most profitable month. The administrative office will be closed from December 24th thru January 2nd. Home for the Holidays ends on December 21st with the movie *Home Alone*.

Welsh said that there is a major issue with the orchestra pit. Three of the six screw jacks which raise and lower the orchestra pit failed, causing the platform to wedge against the stage. The pit has been secured for shows but cannot be raised or lowered until it is fixed. It is used for weddings as well as getting equipment on stage for shows. It is estimated to be about \$30,000 to fix. A new hydraulic system for the pit would be around \$200,000. Welsh said he is waiting on a quote from an elevator contractor for the repairs.

Welsh reminded Board members that the Rialto staff would be volunteering at the food bank on January 9th from 9:00 am until 11:30 am and then go to lunch at Heroes West Sports Grill afterwards. He invited the Board members to join the staff if they were available.

Chairman's Report: Filotto said that he was recently interviewed by the Herald News for a special pull-out section that will feature the 100th Anniversary of the Rialto. He was asked about the previous Authority Board. Filotto gave them credit for retaining VenuWorks to manage operations. He also talked about the previous management model versus the current model. Filotto said that the interview made him reflect over the past eight years and see that there was a lot of good that happened in spite of the bad. He thanked those that have helped turn the management of the theatre around: Valerie Devine, Wade Welsh, the Rialto staff, the Rialto volunteers, the Foundation Board, the City of Joliet, VenuWorks and past WCMEAA Board members.

Committee Reports: No report.

City of Joliet Liaison's Report: No report.

Lobbyists' Report: Welsh informed the Board that he has spoken with the lobbyists. He is working with them on a number of things including getting a proclamation date for the Rialto from the State, possibly May 24th, as well as looking for more funding for the theatre. The lobbyists believe the best opportunity will be the next capital bill in late 2026. They recommend asking for \$5 million or more. They advised Welsh to get a list of projects and to be very specific. Welsh said that the list will prioritize the electrical system, plumbing/sewer, seats and the façade/terra cotta.

Reardon asked Welsh if the sewer issues from last month were resolved. Welsh said that a plumber was brought in for two shows and the issue did happen again while the plumber was in the building. He helped to diagnose the problem as a blockage in the sewer line where it enters the building. The sewer lines were jetted out at a cost of \$7,000. City workers were also cleaning out the sewer traps in the area along the Chicago Street reconstruction project. They believe that there might be a collapsed line under Van Buren Street that is attached to the sewer lines for the theatre. The workers removed about five feet of sludge from the sewer trap outside of the 5 East Van Buren Street doors.

The lobbyists are still working on getting the bid threshold raised to \$100,000. It would be part of a bigger bill and not a stand-alone bill.

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD: - None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman requested a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss matters relating to the asbestos litigation.

The Chair invited further discussion and, hearing none, he called for a voice vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: J. Condon moved and J. Pierson seconded a motion to move into Executive Session.

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

ABSENT: Kent, Trizna

NAYS: None

The open session was closed at 4:39 pm

The open session resumed at 4:52 pm

Motion: The Chairman requested a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. J. Pierson moved and D. Chestnutt seconded the motion.

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

ABSENT: Kent, Trizna

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 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.