

**MINUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION  
AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (“MECA”), a Nebraska nonprofit corporation, was called to order by Chairwoman Diane Duren at 9:13 a.m. on September 15, 2020, in the MECA Board Room at CHI Health Center Omaha, 455 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Chairwoman Diane Duren, Mr. Thomas Warren and Mr. Tom Kelley. Participating via teleconference were Ms. Susie Buffett and Mr. Jay Noddle.

As a reminder, both the City and State have waived applicability of the ‘public meeting’ requirements that would otherwise apply, and therefore the two Board members who were attending the meeting by telephone were eligible to participate.

**Proof of Publication:**

Notice of the meeting was published in *The Daily Record* on September 8, 2020, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on September 8, 2020.

A copy of the Open Meetings Law was posted on the table near the side entrance to the MECA Board Room.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Kelley moved for approval of the minutes of the August 12, 2020, MECA Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Warren.

Motion carried: 5-0.

**President/CEO Report:**

Mr. Roger Dixon stated Phase 4 of the directed health measures went into effect Monday, September 14, for Douglas County and many restrictions were lifted or eased. Businesses are now allowed to hold up to 75% of their capacity indoors and 100% of their capacity outdoors. MECA’s capacity in the arena is approximately 10k guests while still being able to observe social distancing. MECA continues to require employees to be scanned by non-contact temperature assessment devices that are being utilized as part of an initial check at entry points to identify and intercept people who may have elevated temperatures. These procedures may be utilized for guests in the future.

There is no specific timeline for lifting the directed health measure restrictions after phase 4. All business operations will be able to return to pre-pandemic status at that time.

Mr. Dixon is working with the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) and the Omaha Community Foundation on the grant process for the \$750k allocation for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) funds.

Mr. Warren inquired about the type of apparatus being used for temperature scans and if they would be covered under PPE funds. Mr. Dixon responded that MECA will use hand-held thermometers which are accurate and would potentially speed the scanning process for guests. MECA will have at least four points of entry open for future events.

### **Other Business:**

#### **Convention Center Sales & Marketing Update**

Ms. Denise Niebrugge stated that there are currently 62 events on the books, utilizing 137 event days for 2021. Since the August 12, 2020 Board meeting, 11 events and over 4,000 hotel room nights have been added for the next five years.

There are still numerous cancellations as people continue to be fearful of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Niebrugge added that future meetings are scheduling into 2021 and beyond, but as for now consumer confidence is not there yet.

#### **Corporate Sales & Marketing Update**

Mr. Tom O’Gorman reported that MECA has begun the suite renewal process at TD Ameritrade Park Omaha (TDAPO) and there is indication that only one suite holder will not renew. Approximately 650 Club Seat renewals will begin by the end of the month.

CHI Health Center Omaha (CHIHCO) will have 12 accounts up for renewal.

A white paper is being presented to the Board today for approval that is a result of MECA’s negotiation with Ticketmaster to extend their agreement allowing for ticket sales to go digital.

Various scenarios are being discussed with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) for the Volleyball Tournament reschedule, which may occur in April 2021.

#### **Operations and Technology Update**

Mr. Kevin Raymond reported while the operations team continues to work on projects, the A/V staff are busy doing annual cleaning and inspection in the control room and on the scoreboard. A hoist inspection is scheduled for next week.

Initial documentation of safety guidelines was received from the Big East outlining expectations facilities need to meet in order to hold basketball games. It is being reviewed and evaluated; however, it appears that MECA is currently meeting and even exceeding sanitizing standards and air ventilation protocols.

A storage room on the street level at TDAPO is being renovated into a hospitality suite for the College World Series (CWS) in conjunction with Prime Sport. The NCAA funded the project that will begin in October and is slated to be completed in March before the Creighton University Men’s baseball season begins. MECA will be able to utilize this space for other potential events or hospitality in the off season.

### **Levy Food & Beverage Update**

Ms. Chris VanDorn stated the announcement of Phase 4 will mean the return of Levy offering buffet type services. Ms. VanDorn is currently working with Levy's Health Department and Best Practices teams to determine what specific changes are required.

Levy's corporate office officially kicked off the arena pre-season planning process yesterday with 25 different arenas represented on the call. The process this year is essentially a hybrid model of post COVID-19 reopening plans developed over the last couple of months, combined with annual planning and core elements. Planning this year includes the following: core beverage programs, updated suites and in-seat menu concepts/designs, printed and contactless menu collateral, core concession concepts, compliance with all FDA (Food and Drug Administration) requirements, and venue social media communication.

Additionally, the Omaha sales department has been working with the group sales team in Chicago as well as other Levy convention center sites to develop a brochure entitled 'Adapting with Change'. It is designed to be a catering guide for event planners. It's both visual, to show pictures of operational changes that have implemented, as well as informational to provide a quick guide with anticipated Q&A that groups may encounter throughout the process. Also included will be more in-depth information of all changes made. Once Levy has finalized the document, they will work with MECA to share the information with current and potential meeting planners.

### **Public Relations Update**

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl reported that even with Phase 4 taking effect this week, MECA continues to work with the Douglas County Health Department on large event applications, encouraging an open line of communication with their review team.

MECA will receive money through the CARES Act and began the process for grant application while working alongside of the Omaha Community Foundation to determine what expenses qualify.

Ms. Engdahl and Mr. Roger Dixon had an opportunity to advocate on behalf of MECA in a meeting (which also included other live music venues and promoters in Omaha) with Congressman Don Bacon regarding the RESTART Act. This government loan program is designed to benefit performance facilities which were among the first entities to close and will almost assuredly be the last to reopen. Congressman Bacon seemed receptive to the importance of keeping these varying (but related) industries viable.

### **Committee Updates:**

#### **Internal Governance Committee**

Mr. Tom Kelley reported that the Internal Governance Committee met via teleconference on Monday, September 14, 2020, at MECA's offices. In attendance were Chairwoman Duren, Mr. Bob Freeman, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Roger Dixon, Ms. Diane Mills, and Mr. Stephen Curtis, City of Omaha Finance Director.

The Committee reviewed the July 2020 Financial Statements. After overviews from and discussions with Ms. Mills, the Committee found the report to be consistent with standard MECA accounting practices. Mr. Kelley noted that MECA continues to curtail expenses while relying on capital reserves. Other various contingencies for moving forward are being developed by the Committee.

In addition, the Committee discussed the reconciliation of the CWS Waterfall.

### **Real Estate Committee**

Mr. Jay Noddle provided a brief update on the status of downtown construction projects.

### **Contract Approvals:**

Chairwoman Duren indicated there are four contracts requiring Board approval.

#### **Ticketmaster**

**RESOLVED**, that the Agreement between MECA and Ticketmaster to extend the agreement for ticketing services and equipment for an additional five years, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Roger Dixon as President/CEO is authorized on behalf of MECA to execute the Agreement following its finalization in a form reasonably approved by counsel.

Chairwoman Duren invited public and Board comment and asked for a motion.

Moved by Mr. Kelley seconded by Mr. Warren.

Motion carried: 5-0

#### **Levy Premium Foodservice Limited Partnership**

**RESOLVED**, that the Amendment between MECA and Levy Premium Foodservice Limited Partnership for a reduction in fees due to the COVID-19 pandemic for CHI Health Center Omaha and TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Roger Dixon as President/CEO is authorized to execute the Amendment following its finalization in a form reasonably approved by counsel.

Chairwoman Duren invited public and Board comment and asked for a motion.

Moved by Ms. Buffett seconded by Mr. Warren.

Motion carried: 5-0

#### **A1 United Heating, Air & Electrical**

**RESOLVED**, that the Agreement between MECA and A1 United Heating, Air & Electrical to provide and install two (2) five (5) gallon air conditioning units in a new hospitality room at TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved,

and Roger Dixon as President/CEO is authorized to execute the Agreement following its finalization in a form reasonably approved by counsel.

Chairwoman Duren invited public and Board comment and asked for a motion.

Moved by Mr. Kelley seconded by Mr. Warren.

Motion carried: 5-0

#### Mark VII Enterprises

**RESOLVED**, that the Agreement between MECA and Mark VII Enterprises to install a drop ceiling and lighting fixtures in a new hospitality suite at TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Roger Dixon as President/CEO is authorized on behalf of MECA to execute the Agreement following its finalization in a form reasonably approved by counsel.

Chairwoman Duren invited public and Board comment and asked for a motion.

Moved by Mr. Kelley seconded by Mr. Warren.

Motion carried: 5-0

#### Next Board Meeting

The next MECA Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 9:15 a.m. in the MECA Board Room.

#### Executive Session

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 9:37 a.m. and invited a Motion to enter into closed Executive Session for purposes of discussing personnel, real estate and potential claims matters.

A Motion to go into Executive Session for these specified purposes was made by Ms. Buffett, seconded by Mr. Warren.

Motion carried: 5-0.

#### Adjournment

At 10:12 a.m. a motion was made to come out of Executive Session, and to adjourn, made by Mr. Noddle, seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 5-0

Adjournment 10:12 a.m.