

**MINUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION  
AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – MAY 19, 2022**

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 1:29 p.m. on May 19, 2022.

**Roll Call:**

Present or participating via teleconference were: Chairwoman Diane Duren, Ms. Susie Buffett, Mr. Ben Gray, and Mr. Tom Kelley.

As a reminder, during the continuing pandemic, both the City and State had waived applicability of the ‘public meeting’ requirements that would otherwise apply, and therefore all 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 May 5, 2022, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on May 5, 2022.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Gray moved for approval of the minutes of the April 13, 2022, MECA Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 4-0.

**President/CEO Report:**

Mr. Roger Dixon stated the Rebranding Agreement and First Amendment with Charles Schwab have been fully executed. The major signage is up at the stadium.

The sale or distribution of CBD oil (Cannabidiol) by companies participating at CHI Health Center Omaha (CHIHCO) consumer shows has recently been addressed. It was determined that it will be allowed but must adhere to Nebraska statutes. Product must be in the form of a liquid or solid dosage and limited to less than .3% tetrahydrocannabinols (THC).

Discussions continue with Union Pacific Railroad Environmental Department on their remediation efforts in Lot B to remove contaminated soil. There is a chance that it may not happen this year. Contractors are hesitant to bid on the project due to cost estimates coming in too high. Timing is a consideration since Lot B is not up for development at this time.

**Other Business:**

**Convention Center Sales & Marketing Update**

Ms. Denise Niebrugge reported that there are currently 113 events on the books, utilizing 193 event days for the current fiscal year. Since the April 13 Board meeting, 10 events with 32 event days and over 17,000 hotel room nights have been added in the next five years. In addition, 16 license contracts have been signed.

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

Mr. Tom O’Gorman stated that since the last Board meeting on April 13, MECA has sold out two back-to-back Luke Combs shows. It is unlikely that a third show will be held.

Focus is shifting from CHIHCO to Charles Schwab Field Omaha (CSFO) as teams begin to arrive for the Big Ten Baseball Tournament this week. Following the tournament, preparations will begin for the 2022 Men’s College World Series (CWS).

The last sponsorship agreement up for renewal was with First National Bank of Omaha (FNBO), which will be brought back to the Board in June. This will conclude all the renewal of sponsorships at CSFO.

There will be three more concerts announced before the start of CWS.

### **Operations & IT Update**

Mr. Kevin Raymond reported that operations are returning to normal, and attention is now at the stadium with set-up for the Big Ten Baseball Tournament this weekend. The schedule begins on Wednesday with four games per day. This tournament will allow operations to prepare for CWS.

On the agenda today for Board approval is a contract with Event Security Consulting & Operations, Inc. Their new technology will allow fans to pass through a scanning device without the need to be wanded/searched. Common items such as cellphones, sunglasses or wallets would be recognized and would not need to be removed prior to entering. This will enhance stadium security and ensure quicker ingress. Testing will be located at Gate 2 during the Big Ten Tournament.

MECA’s job fair on April 27 went well with the addition of 25-30 new staff members for CSFO and The RiverFront. A new campaign was also started on Indeed.com that is producing a few applicants a day.

Lastly, the security bollards have been installed at CSFO, and the exterior signage for Charles Schwab have been hung, both completed ahead of schedule ahead of the Big Ten Baseball Tournament and CWS.

Mr. Kelley inquired as to what challenges the new CWS schedule presents and how might it affect the series. Mr. Raymond responded that the two items directly impacting the series are the weather and the teams who are playing. This new schedule will keep the momentum going and fans will appreciate two full weekends of baseball games.

### **Public Relations Update**

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl stated that April was a significant month for media monitoring efforts at CHI Health Center Omaha, mostly due to the annual Berkshire Hathaway Shareholder meeting. Coverage of the facility reached an estimated 2 billion people around the world with a total of just under 2,500 mentions, for a total publicity value of \$19 million, with pickup in *Yahoo! Finance*, *The Washington Post*, *Business Insider* and CNBC. Additionally, concert announcements and Bon Jovi’s tour opener contributed to those numbers.

The transition from TD Ameritrade Park Omaha to Charles Schwab Field Omaha has also been a point of curiosity for local media, with stories about the signage changes appearing across multiple outlets, and the *Omaha World-Herald* even pursuing a feature piece about MECA's contractor, Omaha Neon, where they saw some of the larger Charles Schwab Field pieces come to life.

Media requests have begun to talk about preparations for the Men's College World Series. The annual CWS press conference is planned for Wednesday, June 15 at 10:00 a.m. Equally important, with help from the Levy team, will be the return of the special CWS menu tasting, which is always a popular event and translates into fun stories.

### **Committee Updates:**

#### **Internal Governance Committee**

Mr. Tom Kelley reported that the Internal Governance Committee met on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at MECA's offices. In attendance were Chairwoman Duren, Mr. Bob Freeman, Mr. Tom Kelley, Mr. Roger Dixon, Ms. Diane Mills, and Mr. Stephen Curtis, City of Omaha Finance Director.

The Committee reviewed the March Financial Statements, which were strong. After overviews from and discussions with Ms. Mills, the Committee found the report to be reasonable compared to plan and prior periods, and consistent with standard MECA accounting practices.

A number of the cash reserves and investments have been shifted from noninterest-bearing bank accounts to short-term U.S. Treasuries with favorable results.

#### **Contract Approvals:**

Chairwoman Duren indicated there are four contracts requiring Board approval.

#### **Buller**

**RESOLVED**, that the Agreement between MECA and Buller to provide portable sinks to be used at portable food and beverage locations throughout CHI Health Center Omaha and Charles Schwab Field 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. Gray seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 4-0

#### **Host Coffee Services, Inc.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Advertising/Sponsorship Agreement between MECA and Host Coffee Services, Inc. for advertising at CHI Health Center Omaha, as more fully described on the attached

summary, is hereby approved, and Roger Dixon as President/CEO is authorized to execute this 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. Gray.

Motion carried: 4-0

Event Security Consulting & Operations, Inc.

**RESOLVED**, that the Agreement between MECA and Event Security Consulting & Operations, Inc. for the rental and support of twenty (20) OpenGate metal detectors to be used at all entry points of Charles Schwab Field Omaha for the duration of the 2022 NCAA® Men's College World Series, 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. Gray seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 4-0

Omaha Creative Group, Inc.

**RESOLVED**, that the Advertising/Sponsorship Agreement between MECA and Omaha Creative Group, Inc. for advertising, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Roger Dixon as President/CEO is authorized to execute this 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. Gray seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 4-0

**Next Board Meeting**

The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 9:15 a.m. in the MECA Board Room.

**Executive Session**

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 1:49 p.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 Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 4-0.

**Adjournment**

At 2:09 p.m. a motion was made to come out of Executive Session, and to adjourn, made by Mr. Tom Kelley, seconded by Mr. Ben Gray.

Motion carried: 4-0

Adjournment 2:09 p.m.