

**MINUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION
AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – OCTOBER 13, 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 9:09 a.m. on October 13, 2020, in the MECA Board Room at CHI Health Center Omaha, 455 N. 10th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairwoman Diane Duren and Mr. Thomas Warren. Participating via teleconference were Ms. Susie Buffett, Mr. Tom Kelley 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 three 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 October 6, 2020, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on October 6, 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. Warren moved for approval of the minutes of the September 15, 2020, MECA Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Buffett.

Motion carried: 5-0.

President/CEO Report:

Mr. Roger Dixon stated MECA continues to work with the Omaha Community Foundation on the grant process for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) funds. A portion of those funds will be allocated for purchasing card dispensers, which will take in cash and return a debit card. This will help transition the CHI Health Center Omaha (CHIHCO) into a cashless facility.

MECA continues to work with the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD), as any event with over 1000 attendees must be submitted for approval. The process continues without issue.

Other Business:

Convention Center Sales & Marketing Update

Ms. Denise Niebrugge stated that there are currently 64 events on the books, utilizing 138 event days for 2021. Since the September 15, 2020 Board meeting, 10 events and over 5,500 hotel room nights have been added for the next five years. In addition, 8 license agreements have been signed.

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 for conventions is not there yet. However, it appears that sporting events will come back faster as MECA is currently submitting applications to the DCHD for wrestling and volleyball events later this year.

Corporate Sales & Marketing Update

Mr. Tom O’Gorman reported that they are waiting for a response today regarding whether the Top Rank boxing event featuring Terence Crawford will be held in Omaha or Las Vegas, Nevada.

Discussions continue with Creighton and the Big East for basketball. The Big East has dates available, but it has not been determined if fans will be allowed. At this time, Creighton has requested two dates in December for nonconference games with conference play beginning in December, but this is all subject to change. MECA is working with Creighton on how social distancing will be handled.

Approval has been received for a Disney on Ice production tentatively scheduled for the end of December. The event was originally scheduled in Houston and may go back there. MECA continues to move and chase any available events. The Midwest was the place to go, but due to COVID-19 spiking, planners are taking a step back and waiting.

Chairwoman Duren asked if there has been any further discussion about using a bubble for the Big East. Mr. O’Gorman responded there has been no talk of it, right now discussions are whether to have fans or not.

Operations and Technology Update

Mr. Kevin Raymond reported that after last month’s Board approval work has begun on the storage room located on the street level at TD Ameritrade Park Omaha (TDAPO) which is being renovated into a hospitality suite for the College World Series (CWS) in conjunction with Prime Sport.

Work continues preparing CHI Health Center Omaha (CHIHCO) for events. Finally, after waiting six months, additional mobile hand sanitizers have been secured. The remainder of the sneeze guards for mobile areas have been received and MECA continues to search for some that are designed for permanent areas. Sanitizing and ventilation protocols established by MECA continue to meet or exceed expectation of event planners.

MECA is currently working with the City of Omaha to repair prior flood damage to the sewage drain in the back of CHIHCO. Monday the docks will be removed on the convention center side, and the sewer will be repaired, and the concrete replaced. Work is expected to be completed by the first week of November.

Chairwoman Duren inquired if MECA will furnish the new hospitality room located at TDAPO. Mr. Raymond responded that no, Prime Sports will bring in their own furnishings.

Public Relations Update

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl reported MECA continues to focus on large event applications with the Douglas County Health Department, which will remain in place through phase 4. At this time, there are two more applications that will be submitted to DCHD with the potential of more to come.

The extensive CARES Act grant process through the Omaha Community Foundation (OCF) has been completed and now MECA is waiting for additional guidance.

Pre-planning for future events continues as many are scheduled for 2021 and beyond. Many factors need to be determined as to what these different occurrences may look like (factoring in elements such as social distancing) and what measures would need to be communicated in advance. MECA is working to be a good partner for these continuously unusual circumstances.

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, and Ms. Diane Mills.

The Committee reviewed the August 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.

In addition, the Committee discussed the corporate insurance proposal and found it to be acceptable. It will be presented to the Board today.

Real Estate Committee

Mr. Jay Noddle announced the City Council approved the Capital Improvement Plan last Tuesday with no opposition which solidified the funding for modifications to the roadways on the North side of Cuming Street. The City's law department accepted the language as written to be included in a resolution for temporary use of Cuming Street while a new truck route to the north is constructed. Mr. Noddle is hopeful to have the resolution in front of the City Council sometime before Thanksgiving.

Contract Approvals:

Chairwoman Duren indicated there are three contracts requiring Board approval.

Aon Risk Services

RESOLVED, that the contracts for purchase by MECA of insurance from the indicated carriers for the indicated coverages and premiums, as generally set out on the attached summary, are hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President/CEO's execution of the contracts for these coverages is hereby ratified and approved.

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

Mr. Thomas Warren inquired if MECA had ever been quoted for insurance coverage for cyber security protection. There have been a few incidents locally, and this may be something MECA should look in to. Mr. Raymond responded that MECA does utilize some added protection with a national cyber security program that is part of the fire wall security. It monitors and sends alerts daily. Mr. Dixon added that MECA will do some additional research on the subject and get back to the Board.

Moved by Mr. Warren seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 5-0

Doll Construction LLC

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Doll Construction LLC for the removal, disposal and installation of concrete at CHI Health Center 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 Ms. Buffett seconded by Mr. Warren.

Motion carried: 5-0

TMG Enterprises

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and TMG Enterprises to provide all labor, equipment and supplies necessary to perform snow removal services for the grounds at 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 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. Warren seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 5-0

Next Board Meeting

The next MECA Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 1:15 p.m. in the MECA Board Room.

Executive Session

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 9:33 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 9:55 a.m. a motion was made to come out of Executive Session, and to adjourn, made by Mr. Warren, seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 5-0

Adjournment 9:55 a.m.