

**MINUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION
AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – OCTOBER 15, 2019**

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 8:45 a.m. on October 15, 2019, in the MECA Board Room at CHI Health Center Omaha, 455 N. 10th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairwoman Diane Duren, Ms. Susie Buffett, Mr. Tom Kelley, Ms. Dana Washington, and Mr. Jay Noddle.

Proof of Publication:

Notice of the meeting was published in *The Daily Record* on October 8, 2019, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on October 8, 2019.

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. Noddle moved for approval of the minutes of the September 16, 2019, MECA Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 5-0.

President/CEO Report:

Mr. Roger Dixon stated security barrier meetings continue on a weekly basis. The goal is to barricade four corners consisting of 10th Street & Capitol Avenue, Cass & 10th Streets, 10th & Mike Fahey Streets, and MECA Drive with permanent fixtures prior to the annual Berkshire Hathaway Shareholders meeting. Temporary barriers will be required in extremity areas. All areas around CHI Health Center Omaha (CHIHCO), as well as areas around Lot B, will have permanent barriers installed before the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials in June 2020. MECA will move forward with permanent barriers at TD Ameritrade Park Omaha (TDAPO) following the conclusion of the NCAA Men’s College World Series (CWS).

Discussions have begun with the City of Omaha regarding the extension of the “Baby Bob” Pedestrian Bridge from the riverfront, over the Union Pacific railroad tracks and onto the CHIHCO campus sidewalk. Construction is anticipated to begin late 2020, ending in 2021. The completed project will not cut off access to the backside of Lot D, but it may require redirection of some of the ADA Pass users. It will have minimal impact on Lot D parking, with no loss of parking stalls.

Chairwoman Duren inquired if the funding is complete for this project, and if there was an issue with utilities. Mr. Dixon responded that funds were previously allocated for this project under The RiverFront plan. The pathway of the bridge is mostly clear of any major utility challenges.

Other Business:

Convention Center Sales & Marketing Update

Ms. Denise Niebrugge reported that there are currently 123 events on the books, utilizing 236 event days for the fiscal year 2019-2020. Since the September 16, 2019 Board meeting, 12 events with 19 event days and over 2,700 hotel room nights have been added. In addition, 15 license agreements have been signed.

Ms. Niebrugge was excited to announce that Team Omaha was successful in securing the American Jail Association in May 2023. The City of Omaha was selected out of competing cities located in the eastern half of the United States with the assistance of some local representatives from the Douglas County Correctional Center in Omaha. It will be great business for the City of Omaha, bringing in approximately 3,800 hotel rooms.

Corporate Sales & Marketing Update

Mr. Tom O’Gorman stated meetings continue with Creighton University and University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) regarding the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) bid process timeline. MECA will bid four events, to include basketball for Creighton University, and hockey, wrestling and volleyball with UNL.

On Thursday the NCAA Volleyball Committee will be on site along with ESPN to view CHIHCO’s seat kills for TV viewing. Tickets go on sale in December.

There are more show announcements to come in the next few days.

Woodhouse Ford announced today that Dierks Bentley will be headlining the Woodhouse Gives Backpack Challenge concert on February 29, 2020 at CHIHCO. Proceeds will benefit Food Bank for the Heartland Backpack Program, which provides meals over weekends and holidays for food insecure children across Nebraska and Western Iowa.

Operations and Technology Update

Mr. Kevin Raymond reported that the Omaha River City Rodeo and Monster Jam events were successful in kicking off fall events for CHIHCO. Mr. Raymond extended his appreciation to staff, who started clearing out the dirt from the arena on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. and were finished by Monday morning at 7:00 a.m.

Last Monday, following the Phil Collins concert, the arena sound system and hoist were removed. By the end of the week the arena will have a modern new system with significantly improved sound. Mr. Dixon added the existing speakers will be decommissioned but are still functional if anyone knew of an entity looking for replacements.

The new Spalding basketball hoops have arrived and are being installed/tested along with the shot clocks. The new court is scheduled to be delivered on October 25. It will be installed and ready to go for the first Creighton University exhibition basketball game on November 1.

The new system servers and network storage units have arrived. They are installed and IT is currently in the process of configuring and transferring information. The new phone system has also arrived, although not yet configured or installed. All work is planned for completion by the end of October.

External concrete repairs have been a challenge due to weather. Work began yesterday on the loading ramps for docks 4 and 5. There is a short window for completion between now and November 1. Any unfinished projects will be continued into spring and completed before April 1.

Levy Food & Beverage Update

Ms. Chris VanDorn stated that Levy has been busy preparing for the upcoming season. The internal new season menu items tasting was held on October 2. Over 25 proposed new menu items were showcased from group sales, suites, in-seat service and concessions. As part of the tasting, feedback was solicited from everyone attending on their personal preferences for all the items they tried. Nearly 100 completed surveys were received back this year. The team has been working on reviewing all the comments to see if there are any last-minute changes needed before finalizing and printing the menus. Menu items will also be prepared again and photographed for the digital menu boards.

A few of the new in-seat items introduced included: the new Big O' Burger, Loaded Waffle Chips, and the Omaha Street Tacos which were all very well received. In concession, the new items included: the Carolina Gold Barbeque Loaded Pretzel Bites, Jalapeño Popper Dog, Toasted Italian Turkey Sub Sandwich, Nashville Hot Chicken Sandwich, Smoked Chicken Nachos, Signature Steakhouse Bacon Cheeseburger and Philly Cheese Steak Loaded Tater Tots. These new items will be at locations throughout the main floor and upper concourse.

As part of the new menu process, there are two new pieces of equipment to be placed in concession locations where there was no cooking capacity before. This addition will enable Levy to add cook-to-order items that were not previously available in those locations. Ms. VanDorn is excited to see what it will do for sales in those locations. Sales will be monitored and changes will be made throughout the season if necessary.

Ms. VanDorn was notified by the Levy home office last week that both CHIHCO and TDAPO have again been selected as recipients of the 2019 President's Excellence Award for Sanitation for the Fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. Qualifying locations must have an average ever clean score of 96% or higher and also receive a satisfactory health department inspection.

Levy also had a food safety and sanitation surprise inspection on Friday night during the Phil Collins concert. Typically, three inspections are scheduled each fiscal year which ends on September 30. These are separate from the health department and are arranged by Levy, but it is an independent company that performs the inspection. Also, on October 1 this year, Levy changed the scoring system to make it more difficult which was done in order to ensure the highest safety and sanitation criteria. Levy also increased the number of locations audited by each facility to include all of the food and portable locations. Omaha typically has anywhere from 10 – 14

locations inspected, this year there were 24 locations. Ms. VanDorn was proud to announce that team Levy scored a 99% for the entire building.

Public Relations Update

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl stated the presence of several, family-friendly shows at the CHI Health Center Omaha arena presented multiple opportunities for media coverage over the past month. Ahead of the Omaha River City Rodeo several news outlets visited the arena to see the setup, which required 152 dump truck loads of dirt to fill the arena floor. In addition, a KMTV reporter received roping lessons from one of the rodeo participants.

The following week, the arena and dirt within transformed from the rodeo setup to Monster Jam. Renovation required the work of excavators, re-shaping the dirt from a flat surface into a ramp. That week, a KMTV reporter on site received a 'crash-course' in remote control mini-Monster Jam truck maneuvering from the infamous Grave Digger's driver. That same day, another Monster Jam driver went to visit local pediatric patients who were not well enough to see the show. The event received plenty of positive publicity and brightened the day of hospitalized children.

Last week, Levy was featured on KETV's *Midday* where Chef Tyler Humphrey revealed the latest items coming to the CHI Health Center Omaha menu ahead of the Creighton Men's Basketball season. Items featured on *Midday* included the Jalapeño Popper Dog, the Carolina Gold Barbecue Loaded Pretzel Bites, Nashville Hot Chicken Sandwich and Southwest Steak Burger.

MECAs' job fair press release received decent pick-up earlier this month (across both TV and radio media platforms), resulting in a successful turn out.

Lastly, discussions continue with the NCAA, CWS of Omaha and Bozell about potential story ideas ahead of the 2020 Men's College World Series. Late last month each entity had a number of "pitches" (or ideas) due that might help generate coverage ahead of the Series or fill in the gaps for both local and visiting media throughout the Championship.

Committee Updates:

Internal Governance Committee

Mr. Tom Kelley reported that the Internal Governance Committee met on Monday, October 14, 2019, at MECA's offices. In attendance were Chairwoman Duren, Mr. Bob Freeman, Mr. Kelley, Ms. Diane Mills, and Mr. Dixon.

The Committee reviewed the August 2019 Financial Statements. 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.

The Committee reviewed the 401(k) audit with the financial statements and supplemental information. The report and statements were consistent with prior years and there were no unusual items noted.

Finally, the Committee reviewed proposed employee bonus structure, which will also be reviewed in Executive Committee.

Real Estate Committee

Mr. Jay Noddle stated there have been numerous meetings, and as Mr. Dixon mentioned earlier, discussions have begun for a restaurant for The RiverFront.

The Urban Core Committee, which included the City of Omaha, several civic leaders, and donor representatives are working on design guidelines, principles, and strategies for the sites that are being created as a result of the RiverFront redevelopment. Mr. Noddle noted it is good to see the tremendous amount of enthusiasm and many community members really engaged in the project.

Contract Approvals:

Chairwoman Duren indicated there are five contracts requiring Board approval.

MECA

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. Noddle inquired if MECA has seen property insurance rates increase substantially. Mr. Dixon stated yes, but MECA's consultant, James King, and Aon work hard to bring affordable rates for the coverage required.

Moved by Mr. Kelley seconded by Ms. Buffett.

Motion carried: 5-0

CHIHCO & TDAPO

CenturyLink

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and CenturyLink to provide data and telecommunication services 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 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. Washington seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 5-0

CHHCO

Douglas Equipment

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Douglas Equipment to purchase and install four steamers for the concession stands 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 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. Kelley.

Motion carried: 5-0

TDAPO

Miller Electric

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Miller Electric to install MECA provided Lumenpulse exterior LED linear lighting 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 Ms. Washington seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 5-0

Echo Electric Supply

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Echo Electric Supply to purchase Lumenpulse LED linear lighting 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 Ms. Buffett seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 5-0

Next Board Meeting

The next MECA Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 8:45 a.m. in the MECA Board Room.

Executive Session

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 9:10 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 Mr. Noddle seconded by Ms. Washington.

Motion carried: 5-0.

Adjournment

At 10:10 a.m. a motion was made to come out of Executive Session, and to adjourn, made by Ms. Buffett, seconded by Ms. Washington.

Motion carried: 5-0

Adjournment 10:10 a.m.