

**MINUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION
AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 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 1:19 p.m. on February 8, 2022.

Roll Call:

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

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 February 1, 2022, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on February 1, 2022.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Kelley moved for approval of the minutes of the January 10, 2022, MECA Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Gray.

Motion carried: 5-0.

President/CEO Report:

Mr. Roger Dixon stated there are some organizational changes with groups that MECA works closely with. After 12 years leading College World Series of Omaha, Inc. Kathryn Morrissey will retire in September. Amy Hornocker has been named the next Executive Director. Ms. Hornocker has been serving as Marketing and Community Programs Manager at CWS, Inc. since 2017, and MECA previously had the opportunity to work alongside Ms. Hornocker while she served as the Events Director for the Omaha Sports Commission.

The other change is to the Omaha Sports Commission (OSC). The 2021 U.S. Olympic Swim Trials were not financially successful for OSC, mostly due to expenses and tickets sales falling off. As a result, Josh Todd, the former Executive Director has decided to move on, and Lindsay Toussant has been promoted to that position.

Mr. Dixon joined Mayor Jean Stothert on January 26, as she announced Mutual of Omaha’s decision to build a new corporate headquarters in downtown Omaha along with the proposal to develop Omaha’s first streetcar route through the city’s urban core.

Other Business:

Convention Center Sales & Marketing Update

Ms. Denise Niebrugge stated that there are currently 109 events on the books, utilizing 187 event days for the current fiscal year. Since the January 10, 2022, Board meeting, 8 events and over 2100 hotel room nights have been added and 19 license contracts have been signed.

Corporate Sales & Marketing Update

Mr. Tom O’Gorman is out of the office attending the Pollstar Live! 2022 Convention in Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Dixon noted that the touring industry continues to evolve post pandemic. There are events that require health checks for guest entry and other are canceling if mandatory vaccinations are required in the community.

MECA received a telephone call from the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) with complaints about mask mandate compliance. Signs instructing guests to wear masks are posted and masks are provided to those who arrive without them. However, masks are not required when eating and drinking or when guests are seated. According to the DCHD’s recommendations, crowd managers and event staff are not permitted to engage with guests who will not comply.

Operations & IT Update

Mr. Kevin Raymond recognized the hard work and dedication of staff as events pick up in the arena and convention center.

In the last month, numerous positions have been filled and MECA is trending in a good direction. A job fair is scheduled on February 22, and MECA has reached out to local media, on social media and partnered with Indeed.com to help reach job seekers.

Creighton University’s Men’s baseball is set to begin on March 4 at Charles Schwab Field Omaha (CSFO). Hopefully the weather will continue to cooperate. There have been some last-minute changes but rebranding of the stadium remains on schedule. Carpet replacement has begun in the administrative and press areas of the stadium. Materials will arrive in March for the security barriers with completion anticipated before the Big Ten Tournament in May.

Barring an unforeseen circumstance, the replacement of arena seats at CHI Health Center Omaha will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Public Relations Update

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl stated the biggest communication hurdle over the last month has been the Douglas County Health Department’s implementation of a mask order, which, unless it is extended, was originally set to expire this week. This information has been included in all pre-event communications and signage was placed at building entrances. Event staff have also made masks available to anyone who arrives without. The DCHD representative who reached out was understanding and appreciated the insight and communications provided to guests.

Consumer show season in the Exhibition Halls has officially arrived, which has already translated into publicity opportunities. Morning live shots were scheduled with KMTV and KETV for the

Midlands International Auto Show, and already there is interest for the Omaha Home and Garden Expo this weekend and 2022 Omaha Boat Sports and Travel Show, coming up in late February.

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) State Wrestling Tournament returns to the arena this month in a full capacity, resuming the practice of seating schools together. One change MECA continues to emphasize is a cash-free environment. Ms. Engdahl is working with the NSAA to distribute reminders both to digital ticketholders, and jointly across social media platforms.

Lastly, along with a seat on the Omaha Downtown Improvement District (ODID) Board, MECA is now represented in the Old Market Association (OMA). This will help to directly inform downtown neighbors and stakeholders about updates and developments, in the spirit of good community partnership.

Committee Updates:

Internal Governance Committee

Mr. Tom Kelley reported that the Internal Governance Committee met on Monday, February 7, 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 November 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.

In addition, the Committee reviewed the quarterly investments, which were found to be highly liquid. Mr. Kelley noted that as interest rates begin to rise future returns may be better.

Real Estate Committee

Mr. Jay Noddle stated that since the last Board meeting on January 10, 2022, parking arrangements between the City of Omaha and First National Bank were approved by the Omaha City Council. This creates a lay down area for building construction in the Builder's District, scheduled to begin around August or September.

The truck route is progressing, with the project slated to be fully designed in late 2022 and work starting north of Cuming Street in 2023.

MECA will be involved with the Streetcar Design Team. Construction of the downtown section around MECA will most likely occur towards the end of the project.

Contract Approvals:

Chairwoman Duren indicated there are four contracts requiring Board approval.

Premier Midwest Beverage Company

RESOLVED, that the Advertising/Sponsorship Agreement between MECA and Premier Midwest Beverage Company for advertising at Charles Schwab Field 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: 5-0

Omaha Neon Sign

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Omaha Neon Sign to manufacture and install six exterior illuminated building signs at 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.

Mr. Noddle asked what the source of funds are. Mr. Dixon responded that MECA will fund it and Charles Schwab will reimburse the cost.

Moved by Mr. Noddle seconded by Mr. Gray.

Motion carried: 5-0

Softchoice

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Softchoice to purchase Antivirus and Endpoint management software at 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: 5-0

TriMark Hockenbergs

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and TriMark Hockenbergs to furnish shelving units to be used in the walk-in coolers 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 Mr. Gray seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 5-0

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 1:15 p.m. in the MECA Board Room.

Executive Session

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 1:44 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: 5-0.

Adjournment

At 2:46 p.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 2:46 p.m.