

**MINUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION
AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

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 10:10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

Roll Call:

Present were: Chairwoman Diane Duren, Ms. Susie Buffett, Mr. Ben Gray, Mr. Tom Kelley, and Mr. Jay Noddle (participating by telephone).

Mr. Luke Klinker participated as temporary Assistant Secretary in the absence of Mr. Robert Freeman, Secretary.

Proof of Publication:

Notice of the meeting was published in *The Daily Record* on February 7, 2024, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on February 7, 2024.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Gray moved for approval of the minutes of the January 17, 2024, MECA Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 5-0.

President/CEO Report:

Mr. Roger Dixon reported that the new Courtside Lounge was opened to the public during the Nate Bargatze event on Friday night, followed by the Eagles concert and a Creighton University Men’s Basketball game. While the systems all function properly and the numbers are good, work continues on access and flow for guests. Levy’s assistance will be required to review product selections at concert events to increase the speed of service.

Chairwoman Duren noted that the feedback she’s received has been very positive.

Other Business:

Convention Center Sales & Marketing Update

Ms. Denise Niebrugge reported that there are currently 128 events on the books, utilizing 283 event days for the current fiscal year. Since the January 17 Board meeting, 120 events with 38 event days and over 11,800 hotel room nights have been added. In addition, 17 license contracts have been signed.

Corporate Sales & Marketing Update

Mr. Tom O’Gorman reported all bids have been submitted for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) basketball and volleyball events for the years 2026 – 2028.

Negotiations have begun for the Big Ten contract at Charles Schwab Field Omaha (CSFO).

There will not be an outside concert at the stadium this year. Hosting one every other year is a good thing for the stadium.

There are a few silver club seats at CHI Health Center Omaha (CHIHCO) that are in the process of being filled, and the team is in the renewal process over at the stadium.

Mr. O’Gorman stated that through continued work with Live Nation and their Latin group, MECA is happy to be able to announce a few new concerts soon to provide a diversity of events for the community.

Operations & IT Update

Mr. Kevin Raymond stated focus remains primarily on events.

Omaha’s Supernovas professional women’s volleyball team hosted three home games since the last board meeting. Attendance continues to be strong.

Mats are being installed inside the arena now for the NSAA State Wrestling Championship which runs February 15 – 18. Once finished, there will be an overnight turnover to prepare for the Supernovas to play on Sunday. Mr. Dixon added that a week or so ago there was public outcry because tickets were not available for this event; accusations were made that tickets were out on the secondary market, which was not true. The reality is that women’s wrestling has grown approximately 200% since last year and increased the demand. Finally, the NSAA announced publicly that the demand exceeded the number of seats available.

Planning is in full swing for the 2024 March Madness as Creighton University and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) are meeting weekly with MECA to discuss the upcoming event. CHI Health Center Omaha will be hosting the first and second rounds on March 21 – 23.

Operational meetings for the Men’s College World Series (MCWS) have begun, and the annual partners meeting will be held in Omaha next week where details and logistics for the 2024 Series will be discussed. There is a contract up for Board approval today for security at CSFO during the MCWS.

Work continues on the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge expansion, commonly referred to as the “Baby Bob”. The project is on track to be completed in October 2024.

MECA met with the Omaha Police Department (OPD) to discuss the traffic and parking challenges occurring in downtown Omaha with the increase of simultaneous events. Work has begun with

the City and State to try and get messaging out to the public via message boards to be placed on downtown streets and the interstate system directing visitors to available parking.

Chairwoman Duren stated that the new tables in the Lexus Club look very nice. Mr. Raymond responded that this is a good opportunity to do a refresh to the Club as well.

Public Relations Update

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl reported that work continues with the NSAA marketing team to distribute multiple materials addressing fans, families, and media with updates regarding tickets, the clear bag and cash free policies. Contacts in Western Nebraska's newsroom have been alerted in an attempt to ensure reaching those audiences, as they're more likely to be unfamiliar with the facility and procedures.

This month there was an opportunity to showcase the new Courtside Lounge in the arena, which was done through traditional and social media channels. Along with the announcement of the renovation, and debut of the design, a video was utilized on social media to show fans seated on the floor exactly how to access the Courtside Lounge from their seat(s). On Instagram, that video has accumulated almost 5,000 views and counting.

Significant media coverage was received of both Disturbed and the Eagles just this past weekend, both of which boasted a packed house; Disturbed alone had about ten professional photographers on site. Additional concert announcements will continue to boost mentions in the weeks ahead.

Work continues to finalize some media materials and requested assets ahead of the NCAA First and Second Rounds, with those due dates approaching before the end of the month.

Committee Updates:

Internal Governance Committee

Mr. Tom Kelley reported that the Internal Governance Committee met on Monday, February 12, 2024. In attendance were Ms. Diane Duren, Mr. Tom Kelley, Mr. Roger Dixon, Mr. Bob Freeman, Ms. Diane Mills and Mr. Stephen Curtis, City of Omaha Finance Director.

The Committee reviewed the November Financial Statements, which were very strong and in order. 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 also reviewed a draft of the 2023 MECA Audit and believes the final version will have an unqualified opinion with no adjustments.

Real Estate Committee

Mr. Jay Noddle stated that private commercial real estate activity continues to be active in the downtown area. There is a mixed-use project to the south, which may impact some of MECA's

parking rights. A proposed mixed-use project has been announced for Gallup's lawn anchored by a soccer stadium.

Progress on the truck route has been steady and the city appears to be in a position to make the necessary acquisitions for required right-of-way for the route. In the coming weeks, the city will engage civil engineers and design teams to begin the design of the truck route.

The Streetcar project is moving along quickly, and Mr. Noddle will review new exterior images for the vehicle maintenance facility with the Board.

Contract Approvals:

Chairwoman Duren indicated there are three contracts requiring Board approval.

Kiewit Building Group, Inc.

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Kiewit Building Group, Inc. to provide all labor, equipment and materials for construction for the east expansion project at CHI Health Center Omaha, but which will be bid out, and 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. Kelley.

Motion carried: 5-0

Feld Entertainment

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Feld Entertainment for portable ice floor expenses for Disney on Ice 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

Event Security Consulting & Operations, Inc.

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Event Security Consulting & Operations, Inc. for the rental and support of OpenGate metal detectors to be used at entry points of Charles Schwab Field Omaha for the 2024 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. Kelley seconded by Ms. Buffett.

Motion carried: 5-0

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Directors Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 9:15 a.m. in the MECA Board Room.

Executive Session

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 10:34 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. Gray, seconded by Ms. Buffett.

Motion carried: 5-0.

Adjournment

At 10:57 a.m. a motion was made to come out of Executive Session, and to adjourn, made by Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 5-0

Adjournment 10:57 a.m.