

**MINUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION  
AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – JANUARY 14, 2025**

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 1:09 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Proof of Publication:**

Notice of the meeting was published in *The Daily Record* on January 7, 2025, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on January 7, 2025.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Buffett moved for approval of the minutes of November 18, 2024, MECA Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 4-0.

**President/CEO Report:**

Mr. Roger Dixon reported that convention center construction is officially underway with the closing of the back dock area, and crews were already hard at work on the massive project by the second week of January. As a reminder, it will take an estimated two and a half years to complete, with an opening projected for summer 2027.

The new entrance into Lot A is tentatively scheduled to be completed by the end of February.

**Other Business:**

**Corporate Sales & Marketing Update**

Mr. Tom O’Gorman stated that Club seat renewals for Charles Schwab Field Omaha (CSFO) are back to 100% sold out for this year. Next year will be a big renewal year with over 800 seats coming up for renewal.

Discussions continue with Live Nation on talks for a couple of shows this summer at CSFO.

There will be two or three more show announcements for CHI Health Center Omaha (CHIHCO) for this budget year.

### **Operations & IT Update**

Mr. Kevin Raymond reported that the reduced number of events in December provided staff with the opportunity to spend quality time with their families during the holidays and enjoy some well-earned rest.

2025 looks to be another busy year at CHIHCO. The Creighton Men's Basketball team started their conference play with an increased attendance. Last Friday, Omaha's Supernovas professional women's volleyball team began their season with a record crowd.

Mr. Raymond provided a brief update on ongoing projects around the campus.

There is a considerable amount of construction around the facility, and MECA has appreciated the help of the Omaha Police Department (OPD) as they help to direct pedestrians and automobile traffic. The MUD project on Capitol and 10<sup>th</sup> Street has impacted MECA with ingress/egress of event traffic. They estimate to have a portion of the project completed in the February timeframe.

There are no updates to report on the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge expansion, commonly referred to as the 'Baby Bob'.

### **Levy Food & Beverage Update**

Ms. Chris Van Dorn stated that Fiscal 2025 continues to be successful. November 2024 generated the highest revenues in any November in building history, beating the previous record set in 2014 by almost 40%. There were 22 events with 33 event days between all facilities. The arena hosted nine events, which included five Creighton University men's basketball games, three concerts and one day of Monster Jam. The combined results led to the most concession sales generated at CHIHCO since last March.

Interestingly with December slowing down, and having the least number of events in any month this fiscal year in December, it was still Levy's second highest sales month of the fiscal year. Levy hosted 13 events over 15 days with six of them from the arena. Creighton University's men's basketball has been a significant portion of the success this season. Creighton made up 61% of December sales and the two highest ever single games that have taken place in the building were in November with Creighton facing off with Nebraska, and in December with Kansas University. Per cap for those two games actualized 32.5% higher than Levy's average per cap this season.

Last week, Levy began the first of three internal tastings for the baseball menus. This includes both for the regular season and some CWS menu planning. The first scheduled game is over seven weeks away. Levy has seen great success with the specialty items rolled out at CHIHCO for the basketball season. The new smashburgers hit over 400 sold in a single location in December alone. New items were added at the start of conference play and sales will continue to be monitored on the signature items to ensure a good variety of those fan favorite options throughout the building.

## **Public Relations Update**

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl reported that ongoing construction and road closures at 10th and Capitol, followed by restricted access to the loading dock due to expansion work, have presented some access challenges for the public. In light of these restrictions, particularly with the increased Lot A traffic associated with events like Creighton Men's Basketball, a concerted effort has been made to proactively communicate these changes to ensure that everyone is informed.

A variety of communication channels have been utilized, which include traditional media outlets, social media platforms, and updates posted on MECA's website. The goal has been to alert attendees in advance and encourage them to plan for extra travel time, as continued disruptions are expected, especially while MUD work continues in the 10th and Capitol area.

Additionally, the team has worked closely with the Omaha Supernovas, whose season has now begun. Updated information on the access restrictions and other key details through the "know before you go" communications have been provided as part of the collaboration. Beyond traffic and access information, work continues with the Supernovas on other aspects of the building, such as the clear bag and cash-free policies.

Turning to media coverage, November was a particularly active month for CHI Health Center Omaha, with significant media monitoring results. A total audience of 3.7 billion people was reached, driven primarily by Creighton Men's Basketball updates and the announcement of major concerts.

In addition to sports and entertainment coverage, MECA was also focused on raising awareness of the convention center expansion during the election period. This effort aimed to educate the public and local media about the importance of the project, and it generated substantial local news attention.

The largest media pickup in November came from *USA Today*, where there was coverage of both Creighton Basketball and the announcement of comedian Shane Gillis's performance date in Omaha. This broad media exposure helped keep CHI Health Center in the public eye, further strengthening the facility's presence as a key venue in the region.

## **Committee Updates:**

### **Internal Governance Committee**

Mr. Tom Kelley reported that the Internal Governance Committee met on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. 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 September 2024 Financial Statements, which were 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.

### **Real Estate Committee**

Mr. Jay Noddle provided an update on activity in the downtown Omaha area, noting the city continues to advance the truck route, and the Streetcar Authority Board has awarded the construction contract for the vehicle maintenance facility to Sampson Construction.

### **Contract Approvals:**

Chairwoman Duren indicated there are two contracts requiring Board approval.

#### **Hoist Sales & Service**

**RESOLVED**, that the Agreement between MECA and Hoist Sales & Service for the hoist brake system upgrade at CHI Health Center Omaha, as set out 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. Noddle; seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 4-0

#### **ParkHub, Inc.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Agreement between MECA and ParkHub, Inc. for the purchase of parking devices and parking system software for CHI Health Center Omaha and Charles Schwab Field Omaha, as set out 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: 4-0

### **Contracts Recently Awarded:**

MECA has recently awarded the following contracts:

- Cerris Systems North Central, Inc. for VFD Replacements for AHUs.
- Cerris Systems North Central, Inc. for Evaporator and Condensing Unit Replacement.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next Board of Directors Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 10:15 a.m. in the MECA Board Room.

### **Executive Session**

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 1:27 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. Noddle, seconded by Ms. Buffett.

Motion carried: 4-0.

### **Adjournment**

At 1:43 p.m. a motion was made to come out of Executive Session, and to adjourn, made by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 4-0

Adjournment 1:43 p.m.