MINUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – JUNE 30, 2026

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 1:10 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

Roll Call:
Present were: Chairwoman Diane Duren, Mr. Jay Noddle, and Mr. Ben Gray. Ms. Susie Buffett and Mr. Tom Kelley were not in attendance.

Proof of Publication:
Notice of the meeting was published in *The Daily Record* on June 23, 2026, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on June 23, 2026.

Approval of Minutes:
Mr. Gray moved for approval of the minutes of May 21, 2026, MECA Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 3-0.

President/CEO Report:
Mr. Adam Straight recognized the team for their hard work and dedication in delivering a very successful Men's College World Series (MCWS). He noted the team's ability to work in sync with one another while adjusting quickly and effectively to whatever was needed in the moment.

Suite activation during the Series was purposeful, with introductions made to help build and strengthen positive relationships. Ms. Denise Niebrugge and members of the CVB successfully hosted a familiarization tour in the suite, resulting in strong momentum, including one verbal agreement for an event in 2028 and confirmation that an existing client will return.

Populous was also onsite for the opening weekend and was very impressed not only with how MECA was activated, but also with how the city was activated. Their team spent time walking throughout the surrounding area, recognizing how each element influences the overall experience.

A post-con meeting will be held this week with the Operations Team to review the events and discuss opportunities for continued improvement.

As this was his first Men's College World Series, Mr. Straight shared that the event was unlike any other he had been part of. He was especially impressed by the tradition surrounding the Series and the incredible level of family engagement throughout the event.

Ms. Chris VanDorn was out of the office, so Mr. Straight presented her MCWS report.

This year's MCWS food and beverage revenues represented close to a 14% increase over the prior year's actual sales. This increase was due in part to one additional championship Series game compared to 2025.

Food and beverage sales splits were identical to the prior year, with 42% from food and 58% from beverage.

The breakdown by department compared to 2025 was as follows:

- Concessions: up 15%
- Club Lounge: up 9%
- Suites: up 8%
- InSeat Service: up 22%
- Group Sales Catering: up 9%

Bottled water continued to be the highest-selling item overall throughout the Series, with nearly 100,000 bottles sold this year. However, that number reflects an almost 24% decrease from the prior year.

A significant portion of the decrease in water sales was offset by growth in nearly every category of bottled and fountain beverages. This led Levy to believe the decrease in water sales was largely due to cooler weather, although the policy allowing fans to bring in one full bottle of water to this year's games may have also contributed.

Local craft beer experienced very strong growth, increasing almost 30% over prior year sales. The addition of ready-to-drink canned cocktails on the concourse also proved to be a very popular addition to this year's event.

The team sold out of the 1,000 limited-edition MCWS-logoed Yeti cups before the end of day two and facilitated just over 6,000 free refills in those cups throughout the event.

Food sales were up across the board over the prior year, including both core concession items and signature items. All concession locations combined sold 30,000 more food items this year than the prior year, again most likely due to cooler temperatures.

The MCWS was a tremendous success this year. With help from some of the nicest weather Omaha has likely ever had during the Series, along with a very hard-working and dedicated team, it was also one of the smoothest running Series from a food and beverage perspective.

Finally, Mr. Straight stated that he attended the Meeting Professionals International (MPI) WEC Conference in San Antonio, Texas, earlier in June with Ms. Niebrugge and members of the CVB. The convention went well and he noted that Ms. Niebrugge would provide the related numbers upon her return.

Other Business:

Operations & IT Update

Mr. Kevin Raymond took the opportunity to publicly recognize the hard work and efforts of the entire staff during the Men's College World Series in June. He noted that the successful completion of the event required a true team effort across the organization.

Mr. Raymond also reported that several large RFPs have been released since the last Board of Directors meeting, with several items listed for approval today. These include passenger and freight elevators, a new phone system, server storage, and the new court projection system. The arena projection system will significantly enhance the game day experience, help keep CHI Health Center Omaha (CHIHCO) competitive, and introduce advanced technology that is currently offered in only a limited number of venues in the Midwest.

A status update was provided on areas currently under renovation, noting that the expansion remains on time and within budget.

Lastly, Mr. Raymond reported that the kitchen relocation is being prepared for city inspections. He stated that this was no small undertaking and thanked Ms. Chris VanDorn and her team for their hard work in bringing the project to this point.

Mr. Straight acknowledged and thanked Mr. Raymond for his work on the project side. This will be his final construction related update, with it transferring to Ms. Katie Bassett in the future.

Strategic Initiative Update

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl provided an update on strategy and community relationships at MECA, noting that this is a new recurring line item intended to keep the Board of Directors informed on key communications, positioning and stakeholder engagement efforts.

As construction progresses on the CHI Health Center Omaha (CHIHCO) expansion project towards the anticipated fall 2027 opening, MECA is refining its public messaging from a focus on the project being underway to a stronger emphasis on booking the expanded space. This includes sharpening the pitch to meeting planners and event organizers as they evaluate Omaha against other Midwest markets.

Ms. Engdahl then provided an update on leadership positioning for Mr. Adam Straight and MECA's executive leadership team. MECA has been intentional about increasing public visibility for its leadership, including through a LinkedIn spotlight series introducing members of the executive team and other organizational leaders. The goal is to build a more recognizable and credible public face for MECA beyond its venues and events, helping stakeholders better understand the people leading the organization during a high-visibility period that includes the Men's College World Series and the convention center expansion.

Ms. Engdahl also discussed stakeholder engagement through MECA's MCWS hospitality programming. MECA developed a structured 14-game suite hospitality plan, intentionally

sequencing guests across corporate partners, civic leaders, arts and philanthropy representatives, community and equity partners, legislators and other key stakeholders. Ms. Engdahl noted that the effort is intended to deepen relationships with individuals and organizations important to MECA's future.

Also highlighted was the opportunity to host representatives from Populous during the MCWS alongside civic leaders and community stakeholders involved in future development efforts. This type of informal access and relationship building was the result of deliberate planning.

Public Relations Update:

Ms. Grace Safford reported that the Men's College World Series was a whirlwind for the Communications Department, as it was for many members of the MECA team. It began with the pre-series press conference and Levy menu reveal on Wednesday, June 10, and continued through the final MCWS game on Monday, June 22. The four-person communications team produced a significant amount of original content for the Charles Schwab Field Omaha (CSFO) social media accounts.

Ms. Safford reported that MECA's social media activity included 66 posts on the Instagram grid and 254 collaboration posts with partners, which generated 1.8 million views, nearly 73,000 interactions, and 1,600 new followers over the past 30 days. The team also posted hundreds of Instagram stories, 25 TikToks generating 70,000 views, 63 Facebook posts, and 113 posts on X, formerly known as Twitter. Facebook content increased views by 70%, engagement by 523%, and net followers by 137%.

Some of the best-performing content included the reimagined "Know Before You Go" MCWS graphics, which were viewed nearly 127,000 times combined on Facebook and Instagram over the course of the MCWS. The original menu reveal content also performed well, with the menu reveal TikTok becoming the most-viewed TikTok at 19,400 views and the most-viewed video on Instagram at 26,400 views. Videos and photos of the ballpark continue to be the crown jewel of the social media accounts, consistently generating strong views, likes, comments, and shares.

New this year, the Communications Department was able to spotlight seven staff members working during the MCWS through "Day in the Life" videos. These videos were well received both on MECA's social media accounts and by the MECA team.

A video spotlighting Emma Lady, CSFO Stadium Manager, was shown to the Board of Directors. Additional staff members featured in the video highlights included Brittany Cousino, Premium Seating Manager; Angela Hutchings, Senior Social Media Marketing Coordinator; James Beebee, Maintenance Lead; Eric Williams, Assistant Turf Manager; Sam Larson, Stadium Coordinator; and, Katie Cochran, Levy's Executive Chef.

The team was also very grateful to have Mr. Straight participate in live interviews with both *WOWT* and *KETV's* morning shows at the stadium on the morning of the first day of games.

Finally, Ms. Safford stated that the reveal of the field design at CSF Omaha continues to be the most requested photo from media outlets across the Country for use in broadcasts, with courtesy credit. The CNN documentary featuring former Nebraska Senator Ben Sasse and Jake Tapper, part of which was filmed on the field at CSFO during the MCWS, is expected to air on Sunday, July 26, barring any breaking news.

Mr. Noddle commented, and the Board agreed, that it is encouraging to see the human side of MECA being represented, noting that this can only help strengthen the organization's connection with the community.

Committee Updates:

Real Estate Committee

Mr. Jay Noddle reported that most construction projects in the area slowed during the Men's College World Series, but work is now resuming. There are numerous private and civic projects underway on both sides of Cuming Street.

Kiewit officials are expected to have increased control over the Streetcar job site moving forward. Improvements are anticipated related to traffic flow, signage, wayfinding, and overall safety.

Mr. Noddle estimated that this area will experience approximately six to eight more years of continuous construction. He also emphasized the importance of MECA's outreach efforts and the need to focus on the human side of the organization as MECA continues engaging with the community.

Contract Approvals:

Chairwoman Duren indicated there are nine contracts requiring Board approval.

Shelli Herman and Associates, Inc.

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Shelli Herman and Associates, Inc. for executive search services, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Adam Straight 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. Gray.

Motion carried: 3-0

Ticketmaster

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Ticketmaster for ticketing services and equipment, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved and Adam Straight 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. Gray.

Motion carried: 3-0

DLR Group, Inc.
RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and DLR Group, Inc. for Convention Center engineering and design work at CHI Health Center Omaha, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Adam Straight 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. Noddle.

Motion carried: 3-0

Alpha Video and Audio, Inc.
RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Alpha Video and Audio, Inc. for the control room upgrade at CHI Health Center Omaha, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Adam Straight 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. Gray.

Motion carried: 3-0

Quince Imaging Inc.
RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Quince Imaging Inc. for a floor projection mapping system in the arena at CHI Health Center Omaha, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Adam Straight 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. Noddle.

Motion carried: 3-0

TKE Elevator Company

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and TKE Elevator Company for replacement of passenger elevator door operators at CHI Health Center Omaha, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Adam Straight 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. Noddle.

Motion carried: 3-0

Otis Elevator

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Otis Elevator for modernization of the the traction freight elevator in the arena at CHI Health Center Omaha, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Adam Straight 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. Gray.

Motion carried: 3-0

AmpThink LLC

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and AmpThink LLC for a Webex phone system and handsets at CHI Health Center Omaha and Charles Schwab Field Omaha, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Adam Straight 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. Noddle.

Motion carried: 3-0

REDiTECH

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and REDiTECH for Server and SAN refresh products at CHI Health Center Omaha and Charles Schwab Field Omaha, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Adam Straight 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. Noddle.

Motion carried: 3-0

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Directors Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 31, 2026, at 1:15 p.m. in the MECA Board Room.

Executive Session

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 1:48 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. Noddle.

Motion carried: 3-0.

Adjournment

At 2:32 p.m. a motion was made to come out of Executive Session, and to adjourn, made by Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 3-0

Adjournment 2:32 p.m.