

Vermilion County Metropolitan Exposition Auditorium  
And Office Building Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors

August 26, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

Present: John Spezia, Chairperson; Scott Dowers, Bob Iverson, Gil Saikley, Ken Salomon, Maruti Seth

Absent: Tara Auter, Bill Black, Catlin Crozier, and Dean Shore

Attending: Joe Dunagan, MaryEllen Baer, Don Wright, Diane Short, Barry Soskin, William Townsley, and Teri Gaffney

**Call to Order** John Spezia called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Scott Dowers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** The roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Directors of the Vermilion County Metropolitan Exposition Auditorium and Office Building Authority were reviewed. *It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the Minutes of the July 28, 2020, meeting of the Board of Directors as presented.*

**Recognize Visitors:** The visitors in the audience were welcomed to the meeting.

**Public Comment:** Barry Soskin, owner of the Danville Dashers, introduced himself. He stated that he has been the owner for the past ten years and is pleased to be a part of the change that is occurring at the Arena.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee** – Maruti Seth presented the Finance Committee report. He highlighted the Minutes of the meeting that had occurred August 21, 2020 and were included in the Board's informational packet.

Mr. Seth reported that he has been in contact with First Financial Bank regarding the loan payments that the arena has with the Bank. Due to the current situation created by COVID-19, the Arena has the option to only make the interest payments for a period of time. *It was moved by Mr. Seth, seconded by Mr. Salomon and carried that the Arena will pay only interest on its loan at First Financial Bank for three (3) months an additional three (3) months if necessary.* It was clarified that any documents that may need to be signed with the bank to effectuate this option will be executed by Mr. Spezia.

Mr. Dunagan reported that he has followed up with the Illinois Department of Employment Security but no response has been received to date.

With regards to the \$10,000 due under the contract with the Danville Dashers, the offer of payment of \$1,000 for the first 10 games has been extended and accepted. The deposits for the games have been made and the monies will be returned if the season is cancelled.

***It was moved by Mr. Dowers, seconded by Mr. Seth, and carried to accept the Finance Committee report.***

**Building & Grounds/Security/Concessions Committee** – Mr. Seth reported that new doors will be needed as part of the ice system update. The estimated cost of the doors is approximately \$15,000. Estimates are also being obtained for a storage building. There has been no response on the bull-riding event.

It was reported that the concrete has been poured and will need at least 28 days to cure. It is expected that we will begin to make the ice the first week of October. New dehumidifiers will need to be in place prior to making the ice and estimates will be obtained.

**Events Committee** – Bob Iverson reported that the Committee had met on August 12, 2020. Mr. Dunagan and Mr. Spezia gave an overview of the *Hall of Fame* program. This program would bring attention to the Danville community as well as surrounding counties. Nominations for the program are being received through the end of September. The vision is to put the information regarding the persons and teams in the *Hall of Fame* in a format that could be accessed on a touchscreen that would be located in a prominent area of the Arena. Visits have been made to gather ideas as to how to implement the program. It was suggested that Mr. Dunagan will initially oversee the program but that a 'board' of individuals be identified to make future decisions on the program. The goal is to develop an awards banquet to help support it as well as sell sponsorships. It was suggested that the Danville High School model be reviewed as it is quite successful. Mr. Spezia noted that the *Hall of Fame* has the potential to be a very good marketing tool for the Arena. The area Lions Club has expressed an interest in supporting the awards banquet.

***It was moved by Bob Iverson, seconded by Ken Salomon, and carried to accept the Events Committee report.***

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** No Executive Session was needed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None reported.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Dunagan shared the information he had received from Jeanie Cooke in his weekly meeting regarding the foot-traffic breakdown as well as the new Visitors' Guide.

A draft of the Mission Statement and Vision Statement was circulated amongst the members. Suggestions or comments on the statements should be sent to Mr. Seth.

Mr. Townsley presented three resolutions, a copy of which are attached to the original of these minutes, for consideration:

- Article III, Section 2 – changing the date and time of the Board meetings from the fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. to the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. ***It was moved by Gil Saikley, seconded by Maruti Seth, and carried to approve the revisions as proposed.***
- Article IV, Section 4 – revising the Fiscal Year to August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. ***It was moved by Scott Dowers, seconded by Maruti Seth, and carried to approve the revision as proposed.***
- Article VI – revised the Committees to four (4) Committees (Executive Committee, Building & Grounds Committee, Events Planning Committee and Finance Committee). ***It was moved by Gil Saikley, seconded by Ken Salomon, and carried to approve the revision as proposed.***

Mr. Townsley will incorporate the revisions and distribute the updated Bylaws to the members.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

---

John Spezia, Chairperson