

**MINUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION
AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – AUGUST 12, 2020**

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 1:12 p.m. on August 12, 2020, in the MECA Board Room at CHI Health Center Omaha, 455 N. 10th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairwoman Diane Duren, Mr. Thomas Warren and Mr. Tom Kelley. Participating via teleconference were Ms. Susie Buffett and Mr. Jay Noddle.

As a reminder, both the City and State have waived applicability of the ‘public meeting’ requirements that would otherwise apply, and therefore the two 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 August 5, 2020, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on August 5, 2020.

A copy of the Open Meetings Law was posted on the table near the side entrance to the MECA Board Room.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Kelley moved for approval of the minutes of the July 7, 2020, MECA Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Warren.

Motion carried: 5-0.

President/CEO Report:

Mr. Roger Dixon stated the MECA has been watching business originally scheduled for 2020 move into 2021 and beyond. There have also been numerous cancelations as people continue to be fearful of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MECA will receive money through the CARES Act and will begin the process for grant application through the Omaha Community Foundation. The majority of funds will be used for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with a portion allocated for marketing, specifically Public Service Announcements (PSA) for the facilities.

Omaha City Council voted to enact a mask mandate which was effective August 11. The emergency ordinance states that all individuals age five and older must wear a mask when they are in an indoor space that is open to the public, unless six feet of separation from others can be achieved at all times. The ordinance also lists situations in which a mask is not required. This information will also be distributed via MECA’s social media.

There have been several events hosted at CHI Health Center Omaha (CHIHCO) in which the event's promoter required masks. MECA will now follow the City's ordinance until further notice.

Other Business:

Convention Center Sales & Marketing Update

Ms. Denise Niebrugge stated that there are currently 67 events on the books, utilizing 141 event days for 2021. Since the July 7, 2020 Board meeting, nine events and over 4,000 hotel room nights have been added for the next five years. In addition, four license agreements have been signed.

ICAN's event will be filmed at CHIHCO and participants will attend virtually on August 19. Nebraska Chiropractic Physicians Association is still planning on being onsite at CHIHCO on August 20-23 with approximately 250 guests attending.

Ms. Niebrugge is currently participating in a virtual meeting with the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). This year was the Association's 100-year anniversary and the convention was previously scheduled to be held in Las Vegas. There are approximately 11,000 people attending this meeting virtually.

Ms. Niebrugge added that future meetings are still being planned.

Corporate Sales & Marketing Update

Mr. Tom O'Gorman reported the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) had previously approved the precautionary plans prepared by MECA for the WWE Smackdown event for September 7. The seating/spacing requirements had been worked out; however, the promoter has decided to err on the side of caution and push the event back into October or November.

MECA is currently in an exclusive 90-day negotiation period with Ticketmaster regarding an agreement.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Volleyball Tournament is reviewing various scenarios for volleyball. One consideration is having the championship in the spring, but the NCAA had previously released a document stating that if 50% of the teams do not play, they will not have a championship event in that scholastic year. Discussions are continuing.

The NCAA has proposed a price increase, along with escalators for the 800 Club Seats up for renewal at TD Ameritrade Park Omaha (TDAPO). MECA is currently working on a new, counter proposal with no price increases that more actively reflect the current economic situation.

Mr. O'Gorman added there are a lot of events on the calendar that had been cancelled or delayed and now are rescheduled for new dates. It is now a matter of time to see if they will actually occur.

Operations and Technology Update

Mr. Kevin Raymond reported the operations team continues to work on projects. In July, staff finished extracting, cleaning and sanitizing just over 7,000 banquet chairs. Focus is now on the arena where 18,000 seats will be cleaned and sanitized, extracted and repaired if needed.

The team is also focusing on needed repairs. The pavers were removed from the medians along 10th & Cuming Street, landscaping is being redone and then pavers will be replaced. Hall A sustained some rain damage and a portion of the drywall facing the arena is being replaced. The drainage pipe on the arena concourse is also being repaired due to rain damage. While the pipes are open, a camera will be used to determine if there are any more problem areas.

Mr. Raymond added that a few in-house events have allowed MECA to utilize updated sanitizing protocols with new cleaning products and equipment (Clorox 360) being implemented before, during and after events. Extra staff was on hand during the event continuously cleaning high touch point areas (restrooms, door handles, etc.)

Levy Food & Beverage Update

Ms. Chris VanDorn stated Levy has worked through post-COVID-19 reopening plans which include safety and sanitation, training programs, menu options (with limited touch points), and modified packaging for concession food and beverage items.

Since the last Board meeting on July 7, Levy has provided food and beverage for four events between the convention center and arena. Levy was able to incorporate the new plans for each event, even though the food and beverage needs were different.

The Levy team in the front and the back of house wore masks and gloves for the duration of the events. Food for the convention center event was grab-and-go with every item individually packaged or wrapped in order to facilitate both speed of service and safety in sanitation. Custom cutlery kits and condiment packages were constructed, which made it convenient for guests to pick them up and quickly return to their tables. There were also numerous stir stations where coffee could be dressed with cream and sugar as desired. These changes cut down the amount of congestion around the actual coffee stations and helped facilitate social distancing during breaks.

The food options in concessions were assembled by back of house personnel only. Packaging was changed so that every food item was either served wrapped or in a container with a lid. Guests were able to facilitate their own credit card payments at every Point of Sale (POS).

Levy worked with Ms. Engdahl to produce video footage featuring Chef Tyler Humphrey which visually shows and addresses all the changes made with the new health and safety measures. These videos were posted on MECA's social media last week.

Public Relations Update

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl reported that MECA continues to submit applications for upcoming events on MECA's campus in September and October. Most recently the Omaha Marathon application was approved by the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD). Applications include the various health and safety measures the DCHD has put in place, which will exist in conjunction with the provisions that MECA already has implemented. The Omaha Marathon will issue a press release announcing that they are moving forward, along with information about health and safety measures athletes and spectators are expected to abide by.

The application for the Turkey Trot, which doesn't take place until Thanksgiving, was approved this morning. The DCHD has expressed appreciation for as much advance notice as possible in planning for these events.

MECA continues to learn of postponements and rescheduling for new dates. Dan & Shay announced a new Omaha performance date in November of 2021, which will be shared with the public.

MECA has been working with Levy to showcase all the precautions put in place ahead of the events recently hosted here at the CHI Health Center Omaha. MECA's social media followers were given a glimpse into the kitchen, with an explanation on how touch points in food production are being reduced. It also showcased the various PPE that are being utilized by event staff throughout the buildings. This information already existed on the website for public viewing; however, producing these videos will help reach a wider variety of audiences.

Committee Updates:

Internal Governance Committee

Mr. Tom Kelley reported that the Internal Governance Committee met via teleconference on Friday, August 14, 2020, at MECA's offices. In attendance were Chairwoman Duren, Mr. Bob Freeman, Mr. Kelley, Ms. Diane Mills and Mr. Dixon.

The Committee reviewed the June 2020 Financial Statements. After overviews from and discussions with Ms. Mills, the Committee found the report to be consistent with standard MECA accounting practices. Mr. Kelley noted that MECA continues to rely on capital reserves; and various contingencies for moving forward are being developed by the Committee.

Real Estate Committee

Mr. Jay Noddle reported that Mayor Jean Stothert has accepted and approved the primary truck route study, along with the Committee's recommendations of the study. The Committee will continue to work with stakeholders in the neighborhood and finalize funding plans for the replacement route. Mr. Noddle expects by the end of September or early October a resolution could go before the Omaha City Council.

Chairwoman Duren inquired if philanthropic dollars will be utilized for funding the construction of the truck route. Mr. Noddle responded that the City and business community would make up approximately 2/3 of the funding and the balance would be sought from the philanthropic community.

Contract Approvals:

Chairwoman Duren indicated there are three contracts requiring Board approval.

TriMark Hockenbergs

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and TriMark Hockenbergs for the purchase and installation of two Alto-Shaam combination ovens at CHI Health Center Omaha, as more fully

described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Roger Dixon as President/CEO is authorized 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. Buffet seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 5-0

Irwin Seating Company

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Irwin Seating Company to provide exterior seats for the suites at TD Ameritrade Park 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. Kelley seconded by Mr. Warren.

Motion carried: 5-0

Union Medical Services

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA and Union Medical Services to provide medical services when needed for events at CHI Health Center Omaha and TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, as more fully described on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Roger Dixon as President/CEO is authorized 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.

Chairwoman Duren asked who was previously providing these services. Mr. Dixon responded that Union Medical has been providing services since inception with no monthly management fee.

Moved by Mr. Warren seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 5-0

Next Board Meeting

The next MECA Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 9:15 a.m. in the MECA Board Room.

Executive Session

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 1:36 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. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Warren.

Motion carried: 5-0.

Adjournment

At 1:48 p.m. a motion was made to come out of Executive Session, and to adjourn, made by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Warren.

Motion carried: 5-0

Adjournment 1:49 p.m.