CIVIC CENTER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES April 27, 2017

Attendees:

CCC Members: Chairman John Budd, Vice-Chair Jim Knowlton, Commissioner John Harrity,
Commissioner John Brissette
Absent: Commissioner Lowell Alexander

City: John Odell, Candee Raphaelson, Brian Schwartz

SMG: Sandy Dunn, Julia Iorio, Jim Moughan Minutes Prepared by: Paige Williamson, SMG

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Budd brought the meeting to order at 12:31pm.

2. Acceptance of the Meeting Minutes - March 23rd, 2017

Commissioner Brissette motioned to accept the meeting minutes from March 23rd, 2017; Commissioner Harrity, Seconded. (4 yeas, 0 nays) *Motion passed*.

3. Executive Session - Chiller Litigation Update

Roll Call - Chairman Budd (yea); Jim Knowlton (yea); John Harrity (yea); John Brissette (yea) followed by breaking to Executive Session at 12:34pm.

4. Phase 2 - Designer Status Update - John Odell

Meeting was reconvened at 12:43pm beginning with status update provided on Phase 2 - Design by John Odell.

Several meetings have since taken place with Populous along with input from SMG staff to refine the draft report. The Commission can expect the report to be ready in 2-4 weeks. Mr. Odell stated that the framework of the report will appear in two tiers, work that can begin sooner vs. longer term items. Sandy Dunn added that the report is still in "vision mode" including input from the City Manager, but items have not been prioritized to this point. That will come in the next several weeks.

5. Major Projects - John Odell

a. Capital Projects - Status Updates

- i. Windows Expected delivery of windows is May 8th, with install to begin the week of May 15th (weather dependent). By early June, all of the replacements should be completed. There are a total of 14 windows to be replaced in the convention center facility. Commissioner Harrity inquired about an arena damaged window and if it was also included in this repair plan. Sandy Dunn stated that she was unaware of this damaged window and John Odell said the window was not included for this repair. Ms. Dunn and Mr. Odell would review the location and damage to the window to determine a plan for repair.
- ii. WIFI— Over the past month, the WiFi project with Presidio has evolved, along with the cost, reaching a figure of 2.2 million. After conferring with Presidio that this cost was not an option and far exceeded budget, a 1.7 million amount was confirmed to cover all work except for the cabling. Mr. Odell stated that the City believes this to be a robust system to meet the needs of the facility now, and going forward. The

purchase order will be forthcoming shortly with the work anticipated to be completed well before October (Railers Opener).

Commissioner Harrity asked about the construction of the MDF room referenced in SMG's report. Sandy Dunn added that this room was needed on the second floor for the wiring and work has already been underway by SMG staff combining closet areas for this purpose. The internet flow when completed will be both from the East and West sides of the facility. Convention Center upgrade is highest priority and Jim Moughan has begun to soft sell. A press release was sent regarding the lighting upgrade with compliments after the article ran including a call from National Grid. Once the wi-fi project is complete, a similar release will be sent.

- *Scoreboard* Continues to be on schedule and will also be completed before hockey begins (target end of summer).
- 8. SMG Reporting Sandy Dunn / Julia Iorio / Jim Moughan (detail included in monthly packet)
 - a. Monthly Highlights / Financial Statements February 2017

 A general review was made of the monthly report sent to the Commission in advance of the meeting.

With the great success of "Brew Woo" a similar type of event is under review for the Fall. This concept would be focused on American beers and wings, and is tentatively contemplated for Veterans Day, which is a Saturday this year. Commissioner Budd inquired how the SMG staff monitors "21 & above" entry. Ms. Dunn explained that Savor holds the liquor license in the facility and each attendee presents an ID prior to entering the facility. The event is strictly over 21.

Ms. Dunn noted that boxing is coming to the Convention Center this June. This has been a contemplated event for some time with the wealth of excellent boxers being trained in the City. Jose Rivera is the promoter and he has already held two successful events at the Palladium. Commissioner Brissette inquired if the police still conduct the celebrity charity boxing event. Ms. Dunn responded, not to her knowledge.

Commissioner Harrity inquired about the NCAA Tournament bid announcements. Sandy Dunn announced that the DCU Center was awarded the 2018 Regional Hockey Tournament which fits into the past two year rotation. Unlike all other sports, the NCAA Hockey Committee only announced locations through 2019. They continue to look at possibly reformatting the tournament in the future. The NCAA Basketball Tournament sites were announced through the year 2022. Holy Cross, in partnership with the DCU Center, bid for this tournament but was not selected. With all the hotel growth, Commissioner Harrity questioned why this was not considered favorable to the bid. Sandy Dunn responded that the NCAA does not provide details on why they do or do not select specific cities/partners. However, Ms. Dunn did state that, historically, the NCAA selections are based on what currently exists, not what may be under development for the future. Commissioner Harrity offered his congratulations & Ms. Dunn thanked College of the Holy Cross for being a strong partner in the bid process with the NCAA Tournaments.

Cliff Rucker, Owner of the Worcester Railers has been chosen as the commencement speaker for Becker College graduation this year. Mr. Rucker has done incredible work within the City and Ms. Dunn thanked the Commission for their initial vote of support for Mr. Rucker and his proposal to locate an ECHL franchise here. The Worcester Railers are announcing their NHL affiliation today at Block 50 with Tim

Murray and the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce then again at the Compass Tavern with Boosters and Season Ticket Holders. The Commission was encouraged to attend. The NHL affiliation is with the NY Islanders and the AHL Bridgeport Sound Tigers creating a terrific geography. Commissioner Brissette asked if the pub was also still going forward. Sandy Dunn replied yes, and that Michael Covino is involved in that project for this fall.

Julia Iorio reported that there was not much change from the January 2017 financial statement, but all continues to look very good and it is expected that we will be well ahead of budget this year.

b. Sales Report

Jim Moughan highlighted a new, two year contracted event stemming from a local gymnastics affiliation (Giguere's) called the *Pilgrim Invitational Gymnastics Competition* for November 2017 & 2018. The *Global Catholic Network*, out of Missouri, has contracted their event for three days of filming, which will be shown on the EWTN Network and bring an estimated 8,000 many people into the city for September 2017. Dance events also continue to grow.

Commissioner Harrity looked to have further clarification on two areas of the highlights: *Chair Inventory* and *Plumbing* from the Operations, Housekeeping, & Physical Plant Department report. Sandy Dunn explained that because the convention center chairs are 20 years old and the quantity of damaged chairs continues to rise, a full replacement is targeted for the next round of capital monies. Commissioner Budd inquired about a cost estimate, which will be provided at the next meeting.

With regard to the pipe leak, Commissioner Harrity asked if this leak would occur again in this area. Sandy Dunn stated that the repair has been completed and the leak would not occur again. This was not covered under building warrantee as the facility is 20 years old, however by having staff on site to provide for these repairs, there is a cost savings from a 3rd party company and, most importantly, the repair could be completed during off hours to not impact any of the events in the facility.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Knowlton motioned to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Brissette. (4 yeas, 0 nays) Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:16pm

Next Meeting: June 8, 2017 - 11:45 Lunch, 12:30 Meeting - DCU Center Conference Room

Commission to decide on whether meetings will be held in June, July & August for summer break depending upon upcoming reports.