

**CIVIC CENTER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 28, 2019**

Attendees:

CCC Members: Chairman John Harrity, Commissioner Lowell Alexander, Commissioner Jim Knowlton

Absent : Commissioner Patrick Lowe, Commissioner John Brissette

City: John Odell, Candee Raphaelson

Guest: Jim Swords - Populous

SMG: Sandy Dunn, Jim Moughan **Absent:** Melissa Bishop

Minutes Prepared by: Paige Williamson, SMG

1. Call to Order

Chairman Harrity brought the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2019

Commissioner Alexander motioned to accept the Minutes from May 23rd, 2019 meeting; seconded by Commissioner Knowlton. ***Vote*** - 3 yeas, 0 nays. ***Motion passed.***

Chairman Harrity offered an update to the Commission regarding the *2019 MA State Police Graduation Ceremony* as an attendee. The Chairman reminded the board that last year there was severe downtown gridlock at the work day start due to this event. This year, as the Sargent assured, there were no problems or issues of concern at all and police equipment was scaled back. 171 Cadets graduated this year with an attendance audience of about 5-6,000 people. The MA State Police were very happy with the event and offered praise to SMG staff and looks forward to returning for future ceremonies.

3. Rent Waiver Request – Worcester Public Schools Rally – August 23, 2019

Sandy Dunn explained that this event has been sponsored by DCU and will be the fourth gathering of the Worcester teachers, administrators, custodians, support staff, bus drivers, etc. The event is very well attended and offers a motivational speaker for the kick off to the school year. Chairman Harrity motioned to accept the rent free request; seconded by Commissioner Knowlton. **Vote** - (3 yeas, 0 nays)
Motion passed.

4. Major Ongoing Projects – John Odell

a. Capital Projects

i. Vault - The study is ongoing and there were some issues with scheduling due to National Grid. More information is expected through the summer with good numbers to share. It is possible for the option of a portable generator to be used if repairs are able to be completed any earlier, otherwise the project could be held until next summer.

The Zamboni has been purchased and shipment is expected in August in time for the Railers Opener. The colors are being selected now. The Railers sell the sponsorship of the Zamboni. All other items on the sheet are self-explanatory, Mr. Odell reported.

The first meeting of the Designer Selection Board which will oversee the Master Plan along with Populous is scheduled for July 11th with three (3) candidates for interviews.

Over the last two years there has been a 7% annual increase in costs per year Mr. Odell reported. He also stated that there was an estimated \$22 million left in the DIF fund account (from the \$24M noted in an earlier review). There will need to be some scaling back due to the increase in costs. The highlighted items on the report are what is recommended to be removed from the project scope - including the 200 level seating. Continued efforts will be looked at for additional funding to be able to also complete the 200

level. Chairman Harrity stated he would like to see the 200 level completed as well however, the HVAC units are extremely important. An inspection of the rooftop was completed some time ago. Chairman Harrity thanked John Odell for all of his efforts and inquired how long the number estimate were valid for. Jim Swords (Populous) stated that the numbers are at 2 years old now and would have to update once the OPM is on board. The OPM should be on board September 1st. Chairman Harrity stated that if at any point an additional Commission meeting needs to be scheduled for voting purposes, please inform the board.

Jim Swords presented the Phase Two Improvements as highlighted on the list report to the Commission. Sandy Dunn voiced the importance of continuing to attempt to find additional monies so that the 200 level could also be completed.

Chairman Harrity motioned to pass the Phase Two improvements as presented by Populous; Commissioner Knowlton seconded the motion. **Vote** - (3 yeas, 0 nays) ***Motion passed.***

5. SMG Reporting - Sandy Dunn

a. Monthly Highlights / Financial Statements (April) – *Included in Package*

October 1st, 2019 – New FMLA law and benefit will be rolled out. The month of June typically shows more expenditures. Large graduation numbers presently, along with Pentatonix Concert, and a new show, “Young Voices” that came out of the O2 Arena in London. An event not open to public but rather friends and family of school students at approximately 4500 in attendance and would like to grow further.

The Audio / Visual Company, AVCT, which is a 3rd party company in order to renew their contract was required to invest \$35,000 in improvements. In particular, in the arena for graduations, the sound was having some concerns over the past few years, which now has been corrected.

Chairman Harrity inquired about the new Telephone System now that the WiFi project has been completed. Ms. Dunn responded that yes, the phone system is well underway.

b. Sales Report – Jim Moughan

Chairman Harrity congratulated Jim Moughan on the continuous growth of graduations being held at DCU Center. Mr. Moughan announced three new shows for the Convention Center; OnStage Dance Competition, Body Building event out of New Jersey that would like to become annual, and Workforce Training Sustainability.

Disney on Ice will perform in October having moved their scheduling around therefore a new product is possible for this route. Cirque du Soleil will bring their Canada premiere show to DCU Center drawing more of an urban art type of crowd. The Avett Brothers (Blues Band) have announced an October 4th concert performance.

Lastly, Chairman Harrity mentioned an article in the T & G that focused heavily on the lack of concert events at the DCU Center. Ms. Dunn commented that this reporter is a long term concert enthusiast. Back in the 1980's, the venue did have more of a Boston type play as there were no other venues around to compete with for acts. There has been a huge change in the marketplace now with stadium shows, casinos, etc. The financial and economic impact still is very positive for the City of Worcester.

Chairman Harrity inquired about the merger between AEG and SMG. Sandy Dunn commented that at this point Corporate has advised against and commentary, however the US piece is moving along with the European piece in progress.

5. Adjournment

Chairman Harrity motioned to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Knowlton
Vote - (3 yeas, 0 nays) ***Motion passed.***

Meeting Adjourned at 8:44 am.

Next Standard Meeting:

*Thursday, September 26th, 2019 at 7:30am (Breakfast),
8:00am Meeting – DCU Center – Conf Room*