



David S. Palmer Arena  
100 West Main Street  
Danville, Illinois 61832

**VERMILION COUNTY METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND  
OFFICE BUILDING AUTHORITY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

5:30 p.m.

**Via Zoom – (the Link to the meeting will be sent on Wednesday)**

**Anyone who would like to address the Committee is welcome to do so**

**AGENDA**

		Page	Presenter	Time Limit
I.	CALL TO ORDER		John Spezia	3 min
II.	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE			
III.	ROLL CALL			
IV.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES (01-27-2021)	2-5	All	3 min
V.	PUBLIC COMMENTS			5 min
VI.	HEGELER SIGNAGE (Tanya Hill)			10 min
VII.	COMMITTEE REPORTS			30 min
	o Events Committee – Minutes of 02.10.2021	6-8		
	o Use of Ice System/Hockey Teams			
	o Dasher Update			
	o Greater Illiana Hall of Fame			
	o Possible Summer Basketball			
	o Building & Grounds Committee		Maruti Seth	
	o Finance Committee		Dean Shore	
	o Ad Hoc Human Resource Committee		Scott Dowers	
	o Ad Hoc Audit Committee		Maruti Seth	
	o Ad Hoc Hockey Committee		Maruti Seth	
VIII.	OLD BUSINESS			
IX.	NEW BUSINESS			10 min
	o Status of Corporate Counsel		John Spezia	
	o HR Personnel		Joe Dunagan	
X.	OTHER BUSINESS			
	o General Manager's Report		Joe Dunagan	10 min
XI.	NEXT MEETING: March 24, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.		John Spezia	
XII.	ADJOURNMENT		All	

**Vermilion County Metropolitan Exposition Auditorium  
And Office Building Authority**

Minutes of the Board of Directors

January 27, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** John Spezia, Chairperson; Tara Auter, Catlin Crozier, Scott Dowers, O. J. Harrison, Bob Iverson, Ken Salomon, Maruti Seth, and Dean Shore.

**Absent:** Bill Black.

**Attending:** Joe Dunagan, Bill Townsley, Stephanie Wilson, and Teri Gaffney.

**Guests:** Dr. Steven Nacco, Greg Tissier, Jerry Short, Johnny Wright & Ross Brown.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting of the meeting of the Board of Directors of December 16, 2020, were reviewed. ***It was moved by Catlin Crozier, seconded by Maruti Seth, and carried to approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of December 16, 2020, as presented.***

**Public Comments:** None received.

**Strategic Planning -** Dr. Nacco, President of Danville Area Community College, was present. He spoke to the members regarding the strategic planning process. This Board will hold a Strategic Planning Retreat in order to develop our plan for the future.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Building & Grounds Committee –** The Minutes of December 16, 2020, and January 20, 2021, were reviewed. ***It was moved by Dean Shore, seconded by Ken Salomon, and carried to accept the Minutes of the Building & Grounds Committee of December 16, 2020 and January 20, 2021, as written.***

No update as to the progress of the storage building was available. The ice system has been tested and we are now able to begin making the ice. The seating project is going well. The new doors are being installed this week. A proposal for security cameras had been received but no action has been taken. Mr. Seth has requested that pricing from Amazon be received for comparison purposes.

**Finance Committee –** The Minutes of December 16, 2020, and January 20, 2021 were reviewed. ***It was moved by Maruti Seth, seconded by Catlin Crozier, and carried to accept the Minutes of the Finance Committee of December 16, 2020, and January 20, 2021, as written.***



Mr. Shore gave the financial report. The cash reserves after payroll are \$94,000. The Hegeler Bequest has a balance of approximately \$300,000 and there are still some monies due to be paid, which will leave a balance of approximately \$104,000. Those monies, once all monies are paid out, will flow into the cash reserves.

The Finance Committee approved the expenditure of \$200 for an advertisement in the Danville High School yearbook. The focus of the ad will be to encourage youth to come to the Arena. It was acknowledged that no budget for advertising has been established.

Greg Tissier was present and gave the Board an overview of the steps that have been taken and will need to be taken in order to file for the Employee Retention Credit. Information on the proposal for the accounting services of Greg Tissier, was reviewed. There are three (3) phases of this proposal and it is anticipated that the cost in total will be \$7,500. **It was moved by Scott Dowers, seconded by Maruti Seth, and carried to approve the proposal for accounting services by Greg Tissier CPA, to complete Phases 1, 2 and 3 as presented.**

The payroll systems have not been updated for several months and the W2s need to be issued for the 2020 year. Mr. Tissier has presented a proposal to update the payroll system. It was noted that the Arena will need to keep the current system until the need for the records are not needed or can be downloaded onto another system. Also, due to the illness of the Treasurer, assistance by Mr. Tissier will be needed in order to complete in a timely manner. It is anticipated that the cost of Phase 4 of Mr. Tissier's services will be between \$1,000 to \$5,000. **It was moved by Dean Shore, seconded by Maruti Seth, and carried to authorize Greg Tissier, CPA to complete Phase 4 as presented.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS –**

Dean Shore reported that a bill from American Express had been received by the Arena. A late charge has been assessed to this. As the billing is in the name of Peter Blackmon and in order to avoid further late charges, Mr. Blackmon paid the bill. Mr. Blackmon has also taken the appropriate steps to cancel the account. **The charges associated with the account were reviewed. It was moved by Maruti Seth, seconded by Catlin Crozier, and carried to reimburse Pete Blackmon in the amount of \$370.53 as soon as possible.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resignation of Corporate Counsel** – A letter of resignation from Attorney William Townsley was received. Mr. Townsley's last meeting will be the February meeting. **It was moved by Catlin Crozier, seconded by Tara Auter, and carried to accept the resignation of William Townsley as Corporate Counsel effective the end of February.**

**Resignation of Board Member** – Mr. Spezia reported that he had been contacted by Gil Saikley regarding Mr. Saikley's decision to resign from the Board of Directors. Mr. Saikley has been involved as a Board Member for over ten years. **It was moved by Dean Shore, seconded by Scott Dowers, and carried to accept the resignation of Gil Saikley effective immediately.** With this resignation, there are now two open seats on the Board of Directors.

**Resignation of Human Resource Manager** – The Human Resource Manager, Paulina Padgett, has submitted her letter of resignation. Since her initial appointment, Ms. Padgett has accepted a full-time position with DACC which will limit the time she could devote to the Arena. **It was moved by Catlin Crozier, seconded by Ken Salomon, and carried to accept the resignation of Paulina Padgett as Human Resource Manager, effective immediately.** It was noted that an Ad Hoc Human Resource Committee has been appointed.

**Fresh Start of Arena** – Mr. Seth noted that as we now have a new ice system that it may be appropriate to review proposals from hockey leagues for terms of three to five years. The longer terms will allow a league sufficient time to become invested in the community. The current contract with the Danville Dashers is until 2022. We have 45 days from the last day of the Dashers season to open a new contract. After discussion, it was the consensus that Chairman Spezia will appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review proposals for future hockey leagues at the arena.

**Phone System** – A Board Member stated that answering machine recording at the Arena has outdated information and needs to be updated. Mr. Dunagan reported that the company is coming tomorrow to review the phone system in conjunction with the new fiber optic system that will be installed. No one at the Arena has the passwords in order to change the current system.

**Open Skating Price Increase** – Mr. Dunagan reported that the current charge for open skating is \$5.00. An area roller skating rink charges \$6.50 for skating. It was the consensus of the members that a price increase to \$6.00 was appropriate. It was also suggested that we look at opportunities for 'family' skating packages.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Youth Hockey** – Mr. Dunagan reported that the goal is to have the ice available February 1<sup>st</sup>. It is anticipated that Danville Youth Hockey, C-U Youth Hockey and NTOH league will be securing time on the ice. We will ease into this process and each organization that secures ice time will need to be responsible for their own protocols. Mr. Dunagan has been working with legal counsel and our insurance company so that the mandates of the State are being followed as we begin to re-open.

**Executive Session** - *It was moved by Dean Shore, seconded by Catlin Crozier, and carried to recess into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and the Audit process.* Joe Dunagan was excused from the meeting. (6:20 p.m.)

The Board Meeting reconvened into regular session at 7:45 p.m.

**It was moved by Marti Seth, seconded by Dean Shore, and carried to hire BKT to conduct Phase 1 of the Audit at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.**

**NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

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**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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John Spezia, Chairperson



**Vermilion County Metropolitan Exposition Auditorium  
And Office Building Authority**

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the  
Events Planning Committee**

February 10, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Bob Iverson, Chairperson; Tara Auter, Scott Dowers, Ken Salomon, and John Spezia.

**Absent:** Catlin Crozier.

**Attending:** Joe Dunagan and Teri Gaffney.

Bob Iverson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – It was moved by Ken Salomon, seconded by Scott Dowers, and carried to approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2020 meeting of the Events Planning Committee as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No comments were received.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None noted.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Youth Hockey Update** – The Youth Hockey league started last Tuesday and were the first group on the ice. It was noted that the vending machines were not stocked, and Mr. Dunagan reviewed his efforts to secure a vendor for the machines. The Arena will purchase the items to stock the machines until a vendor can be secured.

The CU Youth Hockey league has also started on the ice and it is reported to be going well.

**U of Hockey Update** – They started today and getting a total of six hours each week. Once they are able to schedule games, they are considering using our arena for their games.

Mr. Dunagan reported that the billing for the leagues will be done every two weeks and it is anticipated that the billing will be approximately \$8,000.

**NTOH Update** – The NTOH team played last Saturday night.

**Pickup Hockey Update** – This will begin next week.

**Potential Basketball Update** – Joe Dunagan had sent an email to the Vermilion County Principals to determine interest in doing an event at the Arena. The response was that they are uncertain as to what they can do at the present time and therefore no plans will be made. It was also asked if there may be any interest for the cheerleader groups, but no interest has been expressed.

**AAU Wrestling Update** – Hector Gomez of AAU Wrestling was at the Arena recently. His organization plans to hold its event at the Arena the last weekend of March. A contract has been sent to him for review. He will be charged \$7000 for three days and we will keep the concessions. Mr. Gomez was also agreeable to a bar and that the Arena also keep those proceeds. The event will be for youth to high school and the kids will be limited to two rooms and the locker rooms. We will need to provide security for the event.

**John Ambrose Wrestling Update** – Mr. Ambrose wants to schedule several weekends of wrestling at the Arena and this group has wrestled here in the past. He has indicated that he would like to secure seven weekends.

**Possible Summer Basketball Classic** – Dwight Lucas, who had been associated with the Dustbowl in the past, is considering becoming involved again. He is looking to do a separate event on the same weekend that the Dustbowl had occurred, which is at the end of July.

**Easter Service Update** – Mr. Dunagan has received an email from the organizers of the Easter Service, and they have decided to not hold services this year due to the pandemic.

**Rising Tide Symposium Update** – The Rising Tide Symposium is still scheduled to proceed.

**Security – Cameras** – Estimates for cameras and installation have been received from Jason of Premier Solutions. There is a need to purchase 16 cameras.

**Security – Locks/Keys** – Mr. Dunagan has spoken to ADT to secure an estimate for a new card or fob system. We will begin to change the locking mechanisms on the building to better secure the building.

**Concession Stand Update** – Pepsi is in the process of removing the fountain drinks. The new countertops will be installed, and Pepsi will deliver the new coolers. A new water heater was installed, and it was purchased through the state grant monies.

**LiveGuard Hockey** – Information on a camera system that could be installed at no cost to the Arena was reviewed. This camera system would allow events to be available to the public via live stream. The viewer would bear the cost and not the Arena.

**Plans for Open House** – It was noted that we would like to host an open house so the public could view the new ice rink but still unable to host due to the current IDPH restrictions.

**Possible Naming of Ice Rink** – It was suggested that the Committee begin to explore the appropriate manner to recognize Julius W. Hegeler II for his contribution. It was noted that his name has been placed in the ice. We need to continuously discuss this and collect ideas from the Board Members regarding appropriate recognition. It was also suggested that we look into the development of a policy on naming rights.

**Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame** – It has been determined to reschedule the inaugural introduction of the Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame to 2022.

**Rink Rats Hockey Update** – The Rink Rats is a group of former Dasher players and they are renting the ice for an hour a day.

**Father/Son Hockey** – Tony Bucher is organizing this event on Saturdays for fathers/sons on the ice.

**Dashers Hockey Update** – Mr. Dunagan reported that he spoke with Barry Soskin yesterday. Mr. Soskin reported that there was a conference call earlier in the week. At that time, four teams in the league opted to pay and four teams notified the league that they were not going to play. The Dasher have opted not to play. Mr. Soskin indicated that there will be a call every two weeks and teams that have opted not to play will be given to the ability to play if desired.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Dunagan was complimented on his efforts. Many positive things are moving forward under his guidance. The activities of the Arena have a very positive effect upon the hotels, motels, and restaurants in the area.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Events Committee will be on March 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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Bob Iverson, Chairperson