

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

Minutes of the Board of Directors
August 30, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

Present: Tara Auter, Ryan Brumfield, Kim Hoffman, Erik O'Kane, Durrell Robinson, Dean Shore, and Matt Sims.

Absent: Bill Black, O. J. Harrison, Dylan Haun, and Maruti Seth.

Attending: Andrew Mudd, Jeremiah Brady, Dwayne Gaylor, Janet Payne, and Teri Gaffney.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of June 1, 2023, were reviewed. ***It was moved by Tara Auter, seconded by Kim Hoffman, and carried to approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of June 1, 2023, as presented.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Mr. Bo Cheesman and Mr. Rolf Sivertsen presented a proposal for a Junior Hockey Program in Danville. This program is part of the USPHL and is a Tier III league. The Core Values of the league are Competitiveness, Character Development and Inclusion. The presentation is attached to the original of these minutes.

A study was conducted in the Danville area to determine the feasibility of bringing such a program to this area. The survey indicated that 67% of the respondents were extremely interested in bringing a junior level hockey team to Danville.

Mr. Cheesman emphasized that the goal of this organization is to become a part of the community and the schools of the area. The team members would live with families in the community, similar to the Danville Dans program, and be home schooled. Practices would occur during the daytime hours so the evenings would still be available for Danville Youth Hockey and Champaign Youth Hockey. The players involved are generally between the ages of 16 to 20 years of age. Decatur has successfully housed a team from the league for a number of years. This program is geared toward collegiate development placement and beyond.

The presenters stated that some of the benefits of the USPHL include small initial investment, little dependency on ticket sales and affordable costs.

As no Request for Proposal has been distributed to any teams, no action was taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Dean Shore reviewed the current financial report. The most recent tax monies were up this past month. ***It was moved by Matt Sims, seconded by Erik O'Kane, and carried to accept the June-July-August deposits, debits, credit card charges and bills paid as presented.***

OLD BUSINESS:

HVAC Update – Mr. Shore reported that he has met with representatives of the Hegeler Foundation, and we are awaiting a decision. Mr. Shore will notify the Board Members once a decision has been reached. No response has been received to the request made to Vermilion County.

NEW BUSINESS:

Paid Leave Act Policy - Ms. Payne provided an overview of the proposed Policy regarding Paid Leave that will become effective January 1st in the State of Illinois. It was suggested that this policy become the sick/personal time off policy. ***It was moved by kim Hoffman, seconded by Matt Sims, and carried to approve the Paid Leave Policy that will become effective January 1, 2024.***

2024-25 Hockey Season – The members discussed the need to finalize a Request for Proposal for a hockey team for the 2024-25 season, it was recommended to authorize the General Manager to send a Request for Proposal with a deadline prior to the next Board meeting in order for the Board to have an opportunity to review and evaluate the proposals. Mr. Mudd will work with the General Manager on the project.

Designation of FOIA Officer – It was recommended that the Board designate an individual to accept all Freedom of Information requests. ***It was moved by Tara Auter, seconded by Kim Hoffman, and carried to appoint Andrew Mudd as the Freedom of Information Officer for the Vermilion County Metropolitan Exposition, Auditorium and Office Building Authority.*** Teri Gaffney will get the updated information on the Arena's website.

FOIA/OMA Training Requirement – The members were reminded to complete the training as soon as possible. Teri Gaffney will send the link for the on-line training to the members.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Teri Gaffney reviewed the Management Report. We have been notified that we were unsuccessful for the B2B grant. Mr. Gaylor has completed the upgrades to the emergency lighting and exit signage.

The updated *Safety Manual* was distributed to the Board members. Each employee will receive a new Manual and sign an acknowledgement. The Policies & Procedures manual will be updated next.

The Danville Youth Hockey program is growing, and it has requested additional ice time for the season to accommodate the program. We are pursuing an agreement with the Blackhawks organization which will assist the youth program as well.

Resolution has been reached regarding the sewer bill. When the new meter had been installed, the city was charging us incorrectly for wastewater. We now have a credit with the City and hopefully the issue has been resolved.

The new signage is progressing. A new electrical line will need to be installed before the signage is functional.

The annual review of all current policies has been completed. The staff will begin the performance review process next.

Area arenas were surveyed regarding ice rental amounts. The Arena will provide more information to the Board on the current rates charged.

The Mayor has invited the Arena to give a presentation on its status to the City Council on October 3rd.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Executive Session – As there was no need for an Executive Session, this was deferred.

NEXT MEETING – The next regularly scheduled meeting is September 27, 2023, and the Secretary will confirm that a quorum will be present.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Dean Shore, Chairperson