

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

METROPOLITAN AUDITORIUM COMMISSION

TUESDAY, February 12, 2019

9:00 A.M. ROOM A-31 of the Municipal Auditorium

PRESENT: Blake McDaniel, Alice Chapman, John Landers, LEEANNE LISK, Aleah Armstrong, Perri duGard Owens and Christy Watkins.

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Theresa Costonis, Attorney, Metro Legal Department; Jay McDowell, Musician's Hall of Fame & Museum; Angie Smith, Musician's Hall of Fame & Museum; Megan Dyce, D&D Events; Patrick Hamilton, Mayor's Office; Larry Gonzalez, reporter with WPLN

Mr. McDaniel called for the approval of the minutes for the meeting held on January 22, 2019. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Owens and seconded by Ms. Watkins. Vote – Unanimous.

Mr. McDaniel invited Mr. McDowell to speak to the Commission regarding the MHOFM (Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum). Ms. Smith said she was taking over for today's meeting. She stated the MHOFM has had their best year yet in 2018, which has allowed them to re-invest in some new exhibit pieces. One is John F. Kennedy's stereo which he used while President of the USA. Ms. Smith added that they are coming off the slow tourist season, but attendance numbers are starting to pick up and more events are being booked. They are looking forward to a good 2019.

Mr. McDaniel asked Mr. Skoney to present the Staff Reports. Mr. Skoney reported that Mr. Pentico's Sales report showed he fielded 30 inquiries for dates plus 11 dates for Live Nation shows. Mr. Skoney then reported that Ms. Alexander's Marketing Report is a synopsis of the various email blasts and social media posts that she had made for upcoming events. Mr. Skoney

METROPOLITAN AUDITORIUM COMMISSION MEETING

January 22, 2019

asked if there were any questions on those reports. No responses were made by the commission members.

Mr. McDaniel asked Mr. Skoney to present the Manager's Report.

Mr. Skoney reviewed the events of the past month and the upcoming events. He noted that Real Country should be firmed up next week whether or not they will be returning. Mr. Skoney stated that we are still currently 2 staff members short; we are interviewing for the Event Coordinator position and we have another employee who is still out on ILOD, but he anticipates his return in March. He also mentioned that the MHOFM repairs have been taking place and that we were able to get their plumbing issue fixed before their event in January. Mr. Skoney added that Municipal's electronic marquee has quit working; it is very old and we've been having trouble with it for a long time.

Mr. Skoney stated that the Purchasing Department was concerned about the 60 day out clause in our current Concessions contract, which is being finalized now. He has asked Ms. Costonis of Metro Legal to discuss. Ms. Costonis stated that she and Ms. Ladd of the Legal department didn't see this as being an issue, if the clause was exercised. She also stated that if an RFP is put out for a future private lease management of Municipal, it would need to be put in the RFP that Municipal's existing agreement/contracts would have to be honored. Mr. Skoney added that he just wanted the commission to be aware of the situation and that it would apply to all of Municipal's contracts such as concessions, pouring right, and ticketing provider.

Mr. Skoney said that he had been notified by NES that our electrical vault that houses all the electricity for the venue is starting to cave in and needs repairing. Mr. Skoney added that the cost estimated by NES is \$250K. Mr. Skoney said he had made the Finance department aware of this. Ms. Bailey stated that it was added to Municipal's FY20 budget submission as well.

METROPOLITAN AUDITORIUM COMMISSION MEETING

January 22, 2019

Mr. McDaniel moved into New Business. He stated that there were 2 things to address. 1) Need to address hiring Mr. Skoney's replacement/position. 2) What is next step in moving forward with commission's vision for totally re-vamping Municipal Auditorium?

Mr. McDaniel wanted to start with Mr. Skoney's position. Mr. McDaniel stated that he has been informed the commission has the authority to hire someone for up to one year/on an interim basis. He also said that it had been recommended that the commission reaches out to the Music City Center (MCC) to see if they could loan out an employee to run things until the commission figures out the next step.

Ms. Owens made a motion to post an interim position, posting it through Metro HR. Then HR and Mr. Skoney would screen those candidates down to 10. The commission would then select 3 candidates to interview at the next commission meeting. Motion was approved and seconded.

Ms. Chapman made a motion for the Commission's committee of one (Mr. McDaniel) to reach out to Mr. Charles Stark of the MCC to inquire about the possibility of the MCC lending an employee to the Auditorium to assist with management of the facility on an interim basis. Motion was approved and seconded.

Mr. McDaniel proposed discussion of the next item of business, how to move forward with achieving the commission's vision for the Auditorium. Per Mr. McDaniel, the commission can do 1 of 2 things: 1) privatize the management services of the Auditorium or 2) keep them public.

Mr. McDaniel stated that in order to achieve the estimated \$20-\$30M in renovations needed, to keep things status quo/public, the Auditorium would have to assume that debt some way or other. Mr. McDaniel feels this is a heavy burden for the commission to bare on its own; having to be under pressure of achieving that Return on Investment and paying that debt back.

METROPOLITAN AUDITORIUM COMMISSION MEETING

January 22, 2019

Mr. McDaniel continued on that by going with private management with someone whose specialty is running venues and/or promoting shows, that entity would be in the middle with us helping to pay back that debit because it would be split. He added that there are a couple of ways the city could come to the table to cover this expenditure. One possibility is the city would write a lump sum check and the management entity would write a lump sum check and then construction would move forward. Another option is that the entity could write a lump sum check and the city would pay their half in yearly, annual installments; that way all the money wouldn't be coming out of the city's budget/funding at once.

During discussions, the commission asked Mr., Skoney to provide a budget forecast of improvements needed. Mr. McDaniel is also to ask the Purchasing department about requirements/procedures for the RFP process.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

METROPOLITAN AUDITORIUM COMMISSION MEETING

January 22, 2019

APPROVED:
