

**CIVIC CENTER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2014**

Attendees:

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

City: John Odell, Heather Gould, Amanda Gregoire Absent: Candee Raphaelson

Guests: Joe Capone & Ed Pietrewicz

SMG: Jim Moughan, Sandy Dunn Absent: Julia Iorio

Minutes Prepared by: Paige Williamson, SMG

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Najarian brought the meeting to order at 12:07pm.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – March 27, 2014

Commissioner Budd motioned to accept the minutes of the March 27, 2014 meeting; seconded by Commissioner Knowlton. (5 yeas, 0 nays). *Motion passed.*

3. Rent Credit Request – Worcester Technical High School

Commissioner Harrity recused himself due to his sister being the Principal at Worcester Technical High School. Heather Gould stated that the City Manager's Office requested that the application be completed and presented to the Commission for approval. Sandy Dunn stated that the graduations will be moved from the normal exhibit hall location to the arena due to the need for a larger capacity and White House security restrictions. If the Commission waives the rent, the expenses would still be the responsibility of the school and these are anticipated to be more than what has been charged for rent and expenses in past years. Chairman Najarian requested that consideration be given to inviting the Commission members to the event.

Commissioner Budd motioned to grant the rent free credit day to the **Worcester Technical High School** for **June 11, 2014** in the Arena; seconded by Commissioner Knowlton. (4 yeas, 1 abstention, 0 nays) *Motion passed.*

4. Major Projects –

a. Expansion & Refurbishment Project – A. Gregoire

A construction meeting was held last Tuesday with Consigli and several final details on the project are either "close to finished" or "scheduled for completion" over the next couple weeks, i.e. Salem Glass finishing by April 28th, site rails schedule for next week, and electrical components work scheduled for May 7-9th time period. Landscaping stake supports will remain for 1 year, Heather Gould reported. She also informed the Commission that change orders would be forthcoming for their approval. Skateboarding continues to still be an issue not only at the facility, but also in other areas of the City.

b. Capital Projects – J. Odell

John Odell reported to the Commission that the Lighting Project needs to go through a Chapter 149 bid process. This unanticipated bidding requirement will necessitate funding to complete the design process and will, unfortunately, delay the project considerably.

c. Other Items

Heather stated that the Sharks have approximately \$2,200 in capital remaining to utilize and are working with Sandy to identify how they would like these funds applied.

5. SMG Reporting

a. Monthly Highlights – S. Dunn (*As Outlined in Attached Report*)

Highlights include the two major upcoming June events, 1) Worcester Technical High School Graduation with Commencement Speaker, President Barack Obama and 2) The Democratic Convention – other items in the report were briefly reviewed.

b. Sales Report – J. Moughan

Highlights include Candance Competition originally held in Providence and Lowell venues, WPI Sigma Phi Fraternity 50th Anniversary for September 2015 and St. Mary's Syriac Orthodox Dinner for 400 attendees just confirmed to close out the fiscal year.

c. Financial Statements – S.Dunn

General discussion of Financials- February 2014

While the February numbers included in this month's report continue to show the facility well behind budget, the March results are very positive and will put SMG back on track for the fiscal year.

Commissioner Budd inquired about the recent article in the Telegram and Gazette regarding the future of the Worcester Sharks. Sandy Dunn explained that talks of moving the team to the west coast have been ongoing over the past several years. This is definitely high on the west coast NHL team's priorities and, with many AHL contracts coming up for renewal, the timing would be advantageous for those teams. Current teams affected by this include, at a minimum Portland, Manchester and Worcester. This could create other shifts for teams, which may also impact Springfield, Bridgeport, Albany or other current AHL cities. The Sharks have one more year plus an automatic extension for one additional year if certain financial benchmarks are met, which is unlikely. If they are not met, the Sharks have until August 2014 to request a contract extension.

d. Worldwide Ticket Sales: Top 100 Arena Venues

The DCU Center ranked 89th (Worldwide), 43rd (United States).

Always exciting to be recognized in Pollstar trade magazine!

Commissioner Najarian asked about upcoming concerts. Sandy Dunn responded that there are no shows booked for the summer due to the heavy outdoor traffic but several shows in the fall are expected to confirm in the next month or so.

e. Other Business

Commissioner Alexander asked about the status of the Civic Center Commissioner's plaque previously discussed. Sandy Dunn responded that this will be worked on this summer as the facility will be less busy.

Commissioner Alexander requested an update on the retail space construction. Sandy Dunn responded that this is on hold until funding is allocated by the City for next steps. It is hoped that this will be included in the FY2015 capital budget.

Commissioner Alexander asked what the facility will be doing for volunteers for the Democratic Convention. Sandy Dunn responded that this is under the control of the event planner not the facility. Jim Moughan stated that there are limited items provided by the event planner of this event for the volunteers.

6. Next Meeting

a. 2014 Meeting Schedule – Thursday, May 22, 2014 / 12pm

DCU Center Conference Room

Chairman Najarian moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Commissioner Harrity.
(5 yeas, 0 nays) *Motion passed.*

Meeting Adjourned – 12:41 pm