

**CIVIC CENTER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 23, 2014**

Attendees:

CCC Members: Vice-Chair Commissioner John Budd, Commissioner John Harrity & Commissioner John Brissette **Absent:** Commissioner Jim Knowlton, Commissioner Lowell Alexander

City: John Odell & Candee Raphaelson

SMG: Sandy Dunn, Julia Iorio **Absent:** Jim Moughan

Minutes Prepared by: Paige Williamson, SMG

1. Call to Order:

Vice Chairman Budd brought the meeting to order at 12:08 pm.

2. Welcome Commissioner Brissette!

Vice Chairman Budd welcomed newly appointed Civic Center Commissioner, John Brissette, followed by brief introductions by the rest of the board.

3. Appointment of Chairman

Commissioner Harrity motioned to appoint Commissioner John Budd from Vice Chair to Chair; seconded by Commissioner Brissette. (3 yeas, 0 nays) *Motion passed.*

4. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2014

Commissioner Harrity motioned to accept the minutes of the September 25, 2014 meeting; seconded by Commissioner Brissette. (3 yeas, 0 nays). *Motion passed.*

5. Major Projects –

a. Expansion & Refurbishment Project – John Odell

Mr. Odell stated that Paul Moosey had reported at the September meeting that there were three (3) punch list items and (1) change-over remaining from the construction project. At this point, the 3 punch list items are in negotiations and the change-over piece is unfolding presently.

Commissioner Harrity inquired about the roof leaking issue. Sandy Dunn commented that the roof is now fixed and was told by Mr. Moosey, that there is a one year warranty should we need to have it looked at again. Paul stated that he didn't recommend that payment be held.

Mrs. Dunn reported that she & Mr. Odell had met with the City Manager regarding the next phase of the construction project, but highlighted the fact that the work had been done roughly 12 years back. It was therefore recommended to the CM, that it be best to have opportunity to review inventories & condition of current equipment before moving forward with another construction phase.

b. Capital Projects – Sound System, Boiler, & Lighting

- 1) Sound System – Sandy Dunn reported some challenges with the sound system repair. This item stands at about 85%, with further testing still to be completed.

- 2) Boiler—Approval has been received with work targeted to begin November 13-14 for the re-tubing of the boiler. It was determined that repairs would be made now to the units, and replacement would come later in a future phase. Two competitive bids have been received thus far. Rick Trifero and Frank Aucoin (SMG) have been jointly working on this item.
- 3) Lighting Project - After further assessment, it was determined that 80-90% of the DCU Center's lighting fixtures would qualify to be included in the National Grid Program. However, Mr. Odell stated that the remaining 10-20% of arena lighting, he was not confident would qualify. In fact, if this remaining percentage were to be included, it is possible that these could ruin the project entirely, as far as, obtaining the cost incentive (main objective of the project with virtually no cost). At this point, Mr. Odell is looking to see if the 10-20% could be submitted as an "add on". Sandy Dunn voiced that a definite need was the hockey lighting to be included. LED is certainly a significant upgrade, therefore, will attempt to maximize on the amount of lighting to begin. Hoping to have more information over the next 1-2 weeks. Commissioner Harrity requested a status report prior to the next meeting on where the project stands.
- 4) Revolving Doors— Significantly more of an expense item than anticipated, however, the project is moving forward to winterize revolving doors prior to the first snow fall.

4. SMG Reporting

a. Monthly Highlights/Financial Statements – Sandy Dunn & Julia Iorio
(As Outlined in Attached Report – Financials included July & August 2014)

Commissioner Brissette commented that he was hopeful that Boston/Worcester were still in discussions and possibly, also in contention, for the Summer Olympic Games. Ms. Dunn stated that four cities would be narrowed down and announced sometime in February. A major highlight for Worcester is our Lake Quinsigamond, known to be the best rowing body of water in the state.

Commissioner Harrity commented on the poor quality of the video screen display during the Home Opener of the Worcester Sharks Game. Sandy Dunn offered explanation that technology continues to move faster than industry equipment can keep pace with. The DCU Center's equipment in the Control Room offers full HD quality, while our cameras (that are 15 years old) are only operating on standard signal. The newly created position of "Digital Technology Manager" can assist with keeping these systems operating to their maximum potential but additional capital will be required in the future to upgrade both the cameras and the center hung scoreboard to high definition.

Commissioner Harrity also requested further comment regarding the new subcontractor for merchandising, *Vendors Unlimited (VUI)* vs. the former, *Facility Merchandising, (FMI)*. Ms. Dunn stated VUI was previously a subcontractor to FMI. That the new arrangement will have the same company, VUI, working directly with SMG. While FMI had been the exclusive merchandiser for the facility for the past 30 years, they have monies currently owed to the DCU Center, which is reflected on current financial statements and which resulted in the change. Commissioner Harrity asked if it is possible the company will declare bankruptcy. Ms. Dunn stated that SMG lawyers are in conversation with the lawyers for FMI to determine next steps.

Chairman Budd inquired about the lawsuit that has been recently brought against the City of Worcester relating to the DCU Center's renovations and how those renovations were claimed not to meet the Disability Act minimum standards. Ms. Dunn commented that the City Law Department is handling the case, however, two tours were conducted of the areas in question. The City of Worcester's Disability Office participated and was not in agreement with the allegations. The City has retained a consultant to

audit the facility. No major findings were noted. Many of the specific allegations in the lawsuit were unfounded.

b. Sales Report – Sandy Dunn

The Sales Department highlighted newly contracted events including:

Snowmobile Expo – 11/14-16/14

N.E. Condo & Apartment Expo - 10/20-22/15

USA Gymnastics MA State Cup - 5/15-17/15

5. Other Items – Themed Department Presentations – Sandy Dunn

In an effort to highlight and further educate newly appointed Commissioners about various components of SMG's day to day operations of the DCU Center, a targeted theme will be presented at the monthly Commission meetings when possible. Arena Booking was the featured highlight at the October meeting presented by Sandy Dunn, General Manager. Ms. Dunn provided an historical overview of the Boston market entertainment venues growth over the last 30 years. Ms. Dunn also provided an overview regarding the business decisions made by agents and promoters in choosing a venue for their artist. Also highlighted were the tools provided by SMG in accessing information regarding upcoming tours, national promoters, data on how specific events are performing at other SMG venues, etc.

Commissioner Brissette commented that WCVB - Channel 5 was broadcasting from Union Station this morning, highlighting various locations throughout the City of Worcester. Channel 5 intended to have a segment on each of their news broadcasts throughout the day/evening today. He inquired as to whether the DCU Center was to be part of this broadcast. Ms. Dunn responded that we had not been contacted and she was unaware of who might have been organizing this on behalf of the City.

6. Next Meeting

- a. 2014 Meeting Schedule – Thursday, November 20, 2014 / 12pm
Thursday, December 18, 2014 / 12pm**

DCU Center Conference Room

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

**If parking becomes available on the interior of the building on a meeting day, an email will be sent notifying Commission members the morning of the meeting.*

Meeting Adjourned – 1:22pm