



**Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2020 9:00 A.M.**

Board Members Present via Videoconference: Brett Hart, Chairman; Don Villar, Vice Chairman; Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart; Nina Grondin; Roger J. Kiley, Jr.; Juan Morado, Jr.; Sherman Wright

Others Present via Videoconference: Larita Clark, Chief Executive Officer; David Causton, ASM Global/McCormick Place; Matthew Simmons, General Counsel; Dao Ngo, Director of Procurement; Stephanie Lovelace-Nieves, Controller; Jason Bormann, Chief Financial Officer; Irma Guerrero, Project Coordinator; Molly Kievit, Senior Director of Campus Sales; Cynthia McCafferty, Hawthorne Strategy Group, Inc.; Maria Calderon, Compliance Officer and Board Administrator

The public was able to watch the virtual board meeting through Microsoft Teams – Live Event, a live streaming service. A total of twenty-six public members watched anonymously.

General Matters:

- A1. Roll Call: MPEA Chairman Hart, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and Ms. Calderon called roll.
- A2. Approval of Minutes: Chairman Hart called for the approval of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 22, 2020.

Moved by Member Kiley, seconded by Member Villar, and the remaining members present voted approving item A2.

Roll call vote. Record as:

Brett Hart, Chairman - Yes	Nina Grondin – Yes
Don Villar, Vice Chairman – Yes	Roger J. Kiley, Jr. – Yes
Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer – Yes	Juan Morado, Jr. – Yes
Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart – Yes	Sherman Wright – Yes

The motion passed.

- A3. Public Comment.

There was no Public Comment.

Report from CEO: Ms. Clark congratulated Mayor Lightfoot, the City of Chicago and Choose Chicago for Chicago being honored for the fourth time with Conde Nast Traveler’s Best Big City in the United States 2020 Readers’ Choice Awards. Ms. Clark stated it was the first time a city has received this honor for four consecutive years, and the recognition was especially important because hundreds of thousands of travelers vote for the cities. Ms. Clark reported McCormick Place was recently named a Center of Excellence by Exhibitor Magazine, McCormick Place is among thirty convention centers to receive this high honor. Ms. Clark reported the process included an evaluation process and survey of event planners and show organizers and the final review of qualified event spaces was conducted by a panel of corporate and exhibit managers. Ms. Clark stated this was a great testament to everyone who works hard to put these events. Ms. Clark reported the rooftop garden which is run by SAVOR in partnership



with Windy City Harvest and produces 8,000 pounds of food annually which is served to attendees at the convention center. Ms. Clark stated due to events being canceled on campus this year the food was donated to local food banks. Ms. Clark reported Windy City Harvest sold some of the produce at the South Loop Farmers Market and the proceeds were donated to the local food banks. Ms. Clark reported WGN's Around Town visited the rooftop garden and highlighted some of the produce and interviewed Doug Bradley, General Manager of SAVOR. She noted several trade publications also highlighted the rooftop garden. Ms. Clark stated during the last few board meetings management has provided updates regarding activities that are underway to reopen McCormick Place and the campus, such as pursuing and receiving the accreditation from Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC). Ms. Clark reported MPEA continues to work with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Chicago Department of Public Health and the Mayor and Governor's offices and continue to share reopening plans to be ready when the time is right. Ms. Clark stated the reopening of McCormick Place and the campus is dependent on the public health conditions and the guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Chicago Department of Public Health. Ms. Clark stated the number of cases are spiking now but hopes that soon the pandemic will be over, and the campus will be prepared to reopen. Ms. Clark reported a Harris Poll was conducted in September and the participants polled attend trade shows and conventions. Ms. Clark reported one of the questions asked, which is a question she is constantly asked, is what is the satisfaction of folks regarding virtual meetings? Ms. Clark reported the results are clear, virtual meetings leave a lot to be desired, only 13% of participants polled said they thought virtual meetings were somewhat or much better than in person meetings. Ms. Clark reported the poll participants specifically stated in person meetings are better for things such as networking, new product tryouts and new business leads. Ms. Clark reported the recovery plan has been shared many times and will continue to be tweaked as more information is received and reported that MPEA knows the situation can change but will be ready for the campus to reopen.

Report from Controller: Ms. Lovelace-Nieves presented the financial results for September 2020.

Report from Chief Financial Officer: Mr. Bormann presented the tax collections for September 2020.

Report from McCormick Place: Mr. Causton reported briefings with customers continue regarding the reopening plan and have continued with major event customers through the first half of 2021. Mr. Causton reported the conversations with customers have been about the McCormick Place reopening plan and working with customers on a tailored program or procedure for their individual event. Mr. Causton reported after all the briefings are completed, each major event through fall of 2021 will have an individual plan. Mr. Causton reported McCormick Place had an all staff meeting to provide an update on the planning process and staff shared their projects. Mr. Causton reported Ms. Clark was an invited guest to the staff meeting and she provided her vision as CEO. Mr. Causton reported after the meeting a new channel was created called "Moving Forward," in which, staff will be able to access reopening plans, documents, videos, social distance floor plans and the recorded presentation. Mr. Causton reported an internal newsletter was created for represented staff that were not able to be on the staff call. Mr. Causton stated the newsletter would be shared with the Fire Safety and Security Officers. Mr. Causton reported Ms. Clark reconvened the Labor Management Council, consisting of show organizers, exhibitors, exhibitor point contractors, official service contractors and represented labor. Mr. Causton stated the council meets quarterly and there was no meeting last quarter due to there being no events. Mr. Causton stated Ms. Clark felt it was important to have a meeting this quarter to express the things that are being done on campus for the reopening. Mr. Causton stated the council was informed of the GBAC star McCormick Place achieved and the audit completed for the 2019 events. Mr. Causton stated two audits would be conducted for the 2021 events, since there were no events for 2020. Mr. Causton reported McCormick Place is working with MPEA and Choose Chicago to send additional communications to customers in the upcoming weeks.



Review of Covered Actions and Eligible Agreements:

- C1. Consideration of Approval of New Contract for Strategic Communications Consultant.

Moved by Member Kiley, seconded by Member Wright, and the remaining members present voted approving item C1.

Roll call vote. Record as:

Brett Hart, Chairman - Yes	Nina Grondin – Yes
Don Villar, Vice Chairman – Yes	Roger J. Kiley, Jr. – Yes
Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer – Yes	Juan Morado, Jr. – Yes
Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart – Yes	Sherman Wright – Yes

The motion passed.

- C2. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. MPEA 20-03 Ratifying Amendments to MPEA Retirement Plan and Deferred Compensation Plan.

Moved by Member Ramirez, seconded by Member Villar, and the remaining members present voted approving item C2.

Roll call vote. Record as:

Brett Hart, Chairman - Yes	Nina Grondin – Yes
Don Villar, Vice Chairman – Yes	Roger J. Kiley, Jr. – Yes
Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer – Yes	Juan Morado, Jr. – Yes
Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart – Yes	Sherman Wright – Yes

The motion passed.

- C3. Consideration of Approval of Contract Extension for Banking Services.

Moved by Member Birnecker Hart, seconded by Member Morado, and the remaining members present voted approving item C3.

Roll call vote. Record as:

Brett Hart, Chairman - Yes	Nina Grondin – Yes
Don Villar, Vice Chairman – Yes	Roger J. Kiley, Jr. – Yes
Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer – Yes	Juan Morado, Jr. – Yes
Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart – Yes	Sherman Wright – Yes

The motion passed.

- C4. Consideration of Approval of New Contract for Records Storage and Retrieval Services.

Moved by Member Birnecker Hart, seconded by Member Wright, and the remaining members present voted approving item C4.



Roll call vote. Record as:

Brett Hart, Chairman - Yes	Nina Grondin – Yes
Don Villar, Vice Chairman – Yes	Roger J. Kiley, Jr. – Yes
Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer – Yes	Juan Morado, Jr. – Yes
Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart – Yes	Sherman Wright – Yes

The motion passed.

Adjournment


Chairman Hart moved to adjourn the meeting moved by Member Villar, seconded by Member Birnecker Hart, and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote of the Board.

Roll call vote. Record as:

Brett Hart, Chairman - Yes	Nina Grondin – Yes
Don Villar, Vice Chairman – Yes	Roger J. Kiley, Jr. – Yes
Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer – Yes	Juan Morado, Jr. – Yes
Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart – Yes	Sherman Wright – Yes

The motion passed.

Approved: November 17, 2020

DocuSigned by:

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 Secretary/Treasurer or Assistant Secretary