



**Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2023 9:15 A.M.**

Board Members Present: Jeffrey Bethke, Chairman; Don Villar, Vice Chairman; Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart*; Nina Grondin*; Terrance McGann; Michelle Mills Clement*; Juan Morado; Sherman Wright
*Teleconference

Others Present: Larita Clark, Chief Executive Officer; Matthew Simmons, General Counsel; Jason Bormann, Chief Financial Officer; Pat Allen, Senior Director of Labor Relations and Campus Operations; Hilary Barker, Director of Procurement; Gloria Juarbe, Director of Human Resources; Molly Kievit, Senior Director of Campus Sales; Pi Tao Hsu, Director of Treasury and Capital Management; Tiffany Wright, Business Diversity Program Manager; Dao Ngo, Deputy General Counsel; Stephanie Lovelace Nieves, Controller; Jill Kolinski, Assistant General Counsel; Nicol Chervenak, Director of Planning and Program Manager; Jeanette Swan, Director of Internal Audit; Kelvin Moore, ASM Global/McCormick Place; Dan Hoffend, ASM Global; Cynthia McCafferty, Hawthorne Strategy Group; Lynn Osmond, Choose Chicago; Jim Meyer, Choose Chicago; Dustin Arnheim, Choose Chicago; Pat Doerr, HBAC; Maria Calderon, Compliance Officer and Board Administrator

General Matters:

Chairman Bethke asked for a motion to permit Members Birnecker Hart, Grondin, and Mills Clement participate via teleconference. Upon motion duly made by Member Morado and seconded by Member Villar, the remaining members present unanimously voted passing the motion.

- A1. Roll Call: MPEA Chairman Bethke, called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m. and Ms. Calderon called roll.
- A2. Approval of Minutes: Chairman Bethke called for the approval of the minutes of the January 31, 2023 Regular Board meeting. Member Villar stated there was an edit to item C3.

Moved by Member McGann, seconded by Member Wright, and the remaining members present voted approving item A2.

Roll call vote. Record as:

Jeffrey Bethke, Chairman – Yes	Terrance McGann – Yes
Don Villar, Vice Chairman – Yes	Michelle Mills Clement – Yes
Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer – Yes	Juan Morado – Yes
Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart – Yes	Sherman Wright – Yes
Nina Grondin – Yes	

The motion passed.

- A3. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.



Report from CEO: Ms. Clark reported the Chicago Auto Show attendance was up from last year. Ms. Clark reported the Chicago Auto Show's First Look for Charity raised \$2.5 million for eighteen charities in the Chicagoland area. Ms. Clark reported board members attended the First Look for Charity and the Chicago Auto Show was very appreciative. Ms. Clark reported a draft of the Annual Report was sent to the Board which includes the following highlights from 2022: there were 96 events with 1.1 million attendees; \$1.5 billion in economic impact; \$116 million in tax revenue; supplier diversity; and highlighted staff members. Ms. Clark thanked Hawthorne Strategy Group for assisting with the Annual Report.

Report from Controller: Ms. Lovelace-Nieves presented the financial results for January 2023.

Report from Chief Financial Officer: Mr. Bormann presented the tax collections for January 2023.

Report from McCormick Place General Manager: Mr. Moore reported the events that took place on campus: the Greater Chicago K-12 Chess Championship had 679 participants, most prestigious USCF rated tournament in Chicago, and hosted by Renaissance Knights; the Chicago Auto Show had an estimated 310,000 attendees, First Look for Charity raised \$2.5 million and took place in the North and South halls; the Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting had over 20,000 attendees and 240 educational courses; DePaul University basketball hosted 7 games (4 women and 3 men) and hosted senior nights. Mr. Moore stated the following shows will host their events on campus: the Inspired Home Show will run from March 4-7 with 61,000 attendees expected in the North, South, and the Lakeside Center halls and Arie Crown Theater; True Value will run from March 17-19 with 11,000 attendees expected in the West Hall; Promat will run from March 20-23 with 51,000 attendees expected in the North and South Halls; and the Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo will run from March 31 – April 2 with 70,000 attendees expected in the North and South Halls. Mr. Moore reported the following staff positions were filled: Fire Safety Manager; Director of Event Management; Assistant Treasurer for Wintrust Arena; and an Event Manager. Mr. Moore reported he participated in the Choose Chicago GM Appreciation Roadshow which took place over three days with two days in Washington, D.C. and one in Chicago. Mr. Moore reported he met customers and others in attendance were hotel general managers, building general managers and Choose Chicago.

Mr. Moore introduced Dan Hoffend, ASM Global Executive Vice President. Mr. Hoffend reported the ASM Global portfolio includes 96 convention centers, of which he has visited 37 in the past four months. Mr. Hoffend reported on the future of the convention industry. Mr. Hoffend reported environments can be created within the convention center to meet attendees needs. Mr. Hoffend reported safety and security must start at the first moment an attendee enters the convention center. Mr. Hoffend reported shows should be informed of how to better incorporate entertainment. Mr. Hoffend reported the community needs to be incorporated more within the convention center. Mr. Hoffend stated these trends need to be incorporated to continue to grow within the industry.

Review of Covered Actions and Eligible Agreements:

- C1. Consideration of Approval of New Contract for Federal Lobbyist.

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

Roll call vote. Record as:

Jeffrey Bethke, Chairman – Yes	Terrance McGann – Yes
Don Villar, Vice Chairman – Yes	Michelle Mills Clement – Yes
Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer – Yes	Juan Morado – Yes
Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart – Yes	Sherman Wright – Yes
Nina Grondin – Yes	

The motion passed.



C2. Consideration of Approval of Reference Contract for Audio Visual Equipment, Accessories and Services.

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

Roll call vote. Records as:

Jeffrey Bethke, Chairman – Yes	Terrance McGann – Yes
Don Villar, Vice Chairman – Yes	Michelle Mills Clement – Yes
Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer – Yes	Juan Morado – Yes
Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart – Yes	Sherman Wright – Yes
Nina Grondin – Yes	

The motion passed.

D1. New Business.

There was no new business.

D2. Adjournment.

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

Roll call vote. Record as:

Jeffrey Bethke, Chairman – Yes	Terrance McGann – Yes
Don Villar, Vice Chairman – Yes	Michelle Mills Clement – Yes
Jorge Ramirez, Secretary/Treasurer – Yes	Juan Morado – Yes
Dr. Sonat Birnecker Hart – Yes	Sherman Wright – Yes
Nina Grondin – Yes	

The motion passed.

Time meeting adjourned: 10:17 a.m.

Approved: March 28, 2023



Secretary/Treasurer or Assistant Secretary