

**CIVIC CENTER BOARD OF MANAGERS  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021  
CENTURY CENTER – RECITAL HALL  
8:30 A.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Greg Downes	Aaron Perri
Randy Kelly	Michael Neises
A.J. Patel	Jill Scicchitano

**MEMBER ABSENT**

Linda Doshi

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Perri.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Perri entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the 1) Minutes of the 8/5/21 meeting; 2) Claims 8/1/21 to 10/31/21 and (3) Financial Report 9/30/21. Michael Neises motioned to approve; Greg Downes seconded; and motion carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Perri introduced Philip Nadasdy, the new Executive Director of the South Bend Museum of Art. Perri reported that Broadway shows have returned to the Morris. Umphrey's McGee was a self-promoted concert 11/14/21. The next Broadway show is Cats 12/2-5/21 and more shows are scheduled. The first esports tournament was held at Century Center. The bonding capacity for the new Hotel-Motel Tax will add 2% allocated to the Mishawaka Sports Complex, Potawatomi Zoo, Morris improvements and the Capital Development Fund. Bonds will probably be issued Spring 2022 which will make up the majority of the City of South Bend's \$30 million commitment to Morris improvements. Discussion followed on whether the timing will hurt interest rates. The bond rating is high and the bond will be backed by the City General Fund.

**VENUES REPORT**

**Century Center**

Jeff Jarnecke reviewed Century Center year-to-date financials through 9/30/21. Revenue of \$1,639,859 less expenses of \$2,066,1933 with a net deficit of \$426,334 which does not include the Hotel-Motel Tax Board subsidy. Q4 will be strong, although a few events cancelled, postponed or decreased in size. Positions are not entirely filled while the number of events are down. The 10/31/21 account balance is \$1,687,299.07. More is being paid for the cost of labor and food, although prices are being honored in current contracts. A slight deficit is expected for the year.

Current projects include new water heaters, improvements to Suites 16 and 18, additional esports equipment and dedicated bandwidth, reimaging operational spaces/kitchen, airborne mitigation technology, and customer experience/POS equipment. The City awarded \$1.8 million to prepare Century Center and the Morris for disasters to provide more fresh, clean air to ensure safer conditions, and gas or diesel powered generator as a power back up at Century Center and the Morris wired for a whole house generator.

Esports events are booked through June 2022. Staff are working with Visit South Bend Mishawaka to sell the Bendix Arena. Xfinity is the new naming rights sponsor. The new name will be the "Bendix Arena powered by Xfinity." The Bendix Arena will receive \$40,000 per year for three years. There will be more bandwidth for streaming. Umphrey's McGee streamed their performance at the Morris 11/14/21 which was paid by the relationship with Xfinity.

**Morris Performing Arts Center**

Jarnecke reported that the Morris had slow Q1 and Q2. He reviewed the year-to-date financials through 9/30/21. Revenue of \$997,207 less expenses of \$801,708 with a net profit of \$195,499. The Morris received \$667,000 for the Shuttered Venues Grant Program. An additional second grant was awarded for \$333,000. In 2022 the Morris will become a non-reverting fund with the City of South Bend. All monies will be kept by the Morris and will not go to the City General Fund.

Projects in the existing building that total \$9.1 million are planned for 6/27/21 to 9/30/31 include replacement of the HVAC system, new lights and water by Amaresco; new floor concrete; new seating by Irwin Seating; plus a planned endowment fund to make future improvements. The chairs can no longer be secured to the original concrete. Sound cables will be run in troughs below the floor. New suite opportunities will be available with the new seating arrangement. Depending on fundraising, updated renderings will be available in January 2022 and ground will be broken for the new building to the north in May/June 2023. A suggestion was made to have heated sidewalks outside the Morris to melt snow.

The Morris was awarded the GBAC Star accreditation for cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention for facilities. The Century Center is working on being certified.

The Morris 100 celebration will kick off with the Downtown South Bend "First Fridays" on 1/7/22. New social media and digital channels will promote the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with "Morris Moments" and "Humans of the Morris." There will be new usher attire and special events. A free community festival is planned 10/1/22 with outdoor concerts and fireworks. An inside performance is planned 11/2/22. Dr. Marvin Curtis and Kareemah Fowler and the Equity in the Arts Committee are working on a long-term strategy to be truly impactful on the Morris.

The 2022 budgets were approved by the South Bend Common Council. Last minute changes not affect VPA except park staff received a pay rate increase.

Discussion followed on hotel room nights, rates being higher than in the past for Notre Dame football weekends, and how the hotel industry is cautiously optimistic.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Morris 100 Campaign Update**

Greg Downes gave an update on the Morris 100 Campaign. The goal is to reach \$20 million by the end of the year. There are \$4 million outstanding in asks. The City has committed to \$10 million, The Raclin, Murphey, and Carmichael families have committed to \$5 million. The 2022 Society includes donors who pledge \$100,000 or more. The fundraiser scheduled in August was cancelled due to Covid concerns. Downes and Perri have a number of presentations scheduled. Grant requests have been completed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Hybrid Meeting Policy**

City Attorney Aladean DeRose presented on how all public meetings used to have to be in person. Electronic participation at meetings was allowed since Covid. No more than half the meetings per year can be electronic participation. Members cannot attend more than two consecutive meetings by electronic participation. A budget cannot be adopted at a meeting held by electronic participation. Jarnecke added that at future meetings everyone might have a laptop computer at the table. Aaron Perri asked to entertain a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-01. Greg Downes motioned to approve; Michael Neises seconded; and motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, President Perri adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

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