

**ENTERTAINMENT AND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

May 19, 2016

A regular Board meeting was held on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. in the Lyric Room II at the Holiday Inn Downtown Duluth. In attendance were David Ross, Jay Seiler, Mary Finnegan-Ongaro, Greg Fox, Carrie Heffernan, Deb Messer, Karen Pionk, and Yvonne Prettnier Solon. Staff member Dan Russell was present. Members Crystal Pelkey and Roger Reinert were excused from the meeting. Chad Scott of AMI Consulting Engineers was also in attendance.

Ross called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and noted that a quorum had not yet been met.

Ross briefly reviewed the Agenda for the meeting.

Heffernan and Pionk arrived at 12:08 p.m. Ross noted that a quorum had now been met.

Ross asked for a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Business Meeting, April 26, 2016. Prettnier Solon made the motion to approve, and Pionk seconded the motion. April's Minutes were approved unanimously.

Communications

There were no Communications to present for the month of May.

Old Business

Russell presented the Board with the 2016-2017 Salary Increases and Pay Grade Adjustment Chart. It has been proposed to increase pay grades by 1%, and the option of increasing the salaries up to 2.5%.

Ross asked for a motion to pass the Salary Increases. Prettnier Solon made the motion to approve, and Finnegan-Ongaro seconded the motion. The 2016-2017 Salary Increases and Pay Grade Chart were approved unanimously.

Russell moved on to the topic at hand of the Blue Bridge and seawalls that lie on DECC property. A press conference was held this morning with Mayor Larson announcing that the Blue Bridge would finally be fixed, scheduled right now in March and April of 2017. LHB and H & H, a bridge firm from New York, will work together to replace the cable system with gears. Funding will come from the Food & Beverage Tax, the amount saved on the AMSOIL Arena bond refinancing, and tax allotment bonding in Canal Park.

Russell introduced Chad Scott, co-owner of AMI Consulting Engineers and manager of the Marine Engineering and Commercial Diving services. Scott is very familiar with the waterfront around the DECC, as he recently worked on the Pier B Resort and works for Port Authority. Scott presented a slide show of historical pictures, depicting that the DECC was built on what was once a floating bog and much had to be done to build up the land structure for the area. Scott then presented on the different types of pilings and seawalls that comprise the different areas around the DECC, and noted that there are 8 different types spanning from in front of the Aquarium to the end of the Minnesota Slip that houses the William A. Irvin. The oldest dock in existence in that stretch is from the 1880s and is right at the base of the Blue Bridge. Scott's recommendation for replacing and rehabilitating the seawalls is to use a combination of steel sheet pile or soldier pile "H" wall, and to rehabilitate some of the existing steel sheet pile that might still be in decent condition.

Seiler departed at 1:09 p.m. Scott departed at 1:10 p.m.

Discussion continued on the Seawall issue, including funding options, involving federal and local government money and requesting emergency bonding to deal with this in a timely manner. No vote was taken on the matter at this time.

New Business

There was no new business to report at this time.

Staff Reports

Staff Reports were not given at this time.

The Board of Directors met in an Executive Session and passed the following motion:

Approve the proposed Daniel Russell Employment Extension Agreement with the following, single change to:

- 1. Extension. The Term of Employment as provided in the Employment Agreement is hereby amended to terminate August 31, 2017, rather than August 31, 2016*

A motion was made by Deb Messer, and seconded by Yvonne Prettner Solon. The motion unanimously passed.

The next regular meeting is on June 28, 2016 at 4 p.m. in the Senator Sam Solon Board Room.

Ross adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

Submitted by:



David Ross, President



Crystal Pelkey, Secretary