

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

January 26, 2016

A regular Board meeting was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Senator Sam Solon Board Room. In attendance were David Ross, Jay Seiler, Crystal Pelkey, Greg Fox, and Karen Pionk. Mary Finnegan-Ongaro was present electronically for voting purposes. Staff members Dan Russell, Chelly Townsend, Caty Kaups, and Sue Ellen Moore were present. Members Carrie Heffernan, Deb Messer, Yvonne Prettner Solon, and Roger Reinert were excused from the meeting.

Ross called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. and noted that a quorum had not yet been met. Agenda items requiring a vote will be held until additional members arrive.

Communications

Russell presented the report of tourism taxes collected through October 2015, and a letter from the Duluth Sister Cities organization thanking the DECC for the space to display the Christmas trees from around the world.

Pelkey and Pionk arrived at 5:13 p.m.

Old Business

Russell stated that the Blue Bridge has become an issue that new Duluth Mayor Emily Larson has taken on. A permanent solution must be found to fix the issues that cause bridge closures. A preliminary study is planned for the end of April 2016, and the decision on how to proceed will be made by the city. Bidding will be sought in late fall, and the estimated 60 days of construction would take place in April and May 2017. The rough cost estimate for the project is \$1.8 million, and the consultation and study will cost \$17,500, which the DECC will fund through excess tourism tax. Russell also noted that the bridge would receive a new coat of paint to end the "Blue Bridge" days and association with all of the problems.

Staff Reports

Russell gave the Event Recap, mentioning that the DECC has booked John Mellencamp for April 7 in Symphony Hall and James Taylor in AMSOIL Arena on June 1st. Also coming to AMSOIL Arena is the FMX World Tour of Moto-Cross and BMX on April 23rd. A tentative concert for Bayfront this summer is the Goo Goo Dolls and Collective Soul in the end of July. January has been a great month for events with the rescheduled Chris Young concert and the Bernie Sanders Rally that just wrapped up less than an hour prior to the meeting. Fox mentioned that he attended the financial closing of the Chris Young concert and recommends board members attend to see how it is done.

Finnegan-Ongaro was reached electronically at 5:28 p.m.

Ross asked for a motion to call the meeting to order now that a quorum was met. Pionk made the motion for order, and Ross seconded the motion. The meeting was officially called to order at 5:29 p.m.

New Business

Russell stated that two bids were received for the construction of the new Curling Club ice floor. Commercial Refrigeration of Virginia, MN, came in at \$687,124, while Lakehead Constructors of Superior, WI, came in at \$539,300. The bids were increased from the original estimates because of the need for an 8-inch slab rather than the traditional 5 or 6-inches due to the additional use on the floor for trade shows. Lakehead would be the ideal bid to accept, and they would work with subcontractors Kelleher Construction of Burnsville, MN, for the concrete work, and also with Total

Mechanical Services, Inc. of St. Paul Park, MN, both of which have done countless ice floors. Fox asked how much higher these bids were than initially estimated and where the funds would come from to cover the additional cost. Bids were about \$100,000 higher than estimated, and excess tourism tax could cover the cost. The board was reminded that this project did not include any work on the ice plant for Pioneer Hall. Finnegan-Ongaro asked if this increased cost would increase the commitment needed from the Curling Club. Russell answered that it would not, because it is a DECC need to have the thicker slab for trade show function during the summers when curling ice is out.

Ross asked for a motion to accept the lowest bid from Lakehead Constructors. Pionk made the motion to accept, and Fox seconded the motion. The bid was accepted unanimously.

In the interest of time, Ross tabled all other issues until the February meeting.


Staff Reports, continued

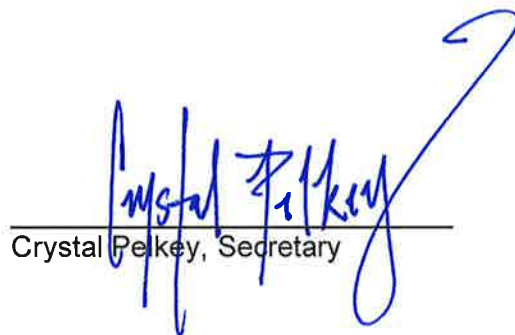
Kaups did not give the Finance Report, but briefly noted that the preliminary audit for 2015 has been completed, and 2015 was a very successful year financially.

The next regular meeting is on February 23, 2016 at 4 p.m. in the Symphony Hall Mezzanine

Ross adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Submitted by:


David Ross, President


Crystal Pelkey, Secretary