



Helena Civic Center Board
PO Box 272, Helena MT 59624

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
CIVIC CENTER BOARD
October 8, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joann Christnacht, Brad Culver, Mike DaSilva, Skip Hatveldt, Bridget Holland, Judy Kline, Kathleen Pace, Trevor Parrish, Rick Schlenker, Craig Wilkerson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Riley Johnson, Bonnie Lorang, Kacey Pilon, Glenda Seipp

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED: Steve Crider

OTHERS PRESENT: City Staff: Byron Dike, Bridget Johnston, Troy Sampson, Kristi Ponozzo

CALL TO ORDER: Board President, Judy Kline called the meeting to order at 4:04PM.

MEETING MINUTES: The minutes from September 10, 2019 were approved as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brad Culver reported that the only expense for September was \$92 for the post office box rental. He reported that the balance is \$54,409.13 plus \$20,693.94 CD for a total of \$75,103.07.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: None

STAFF REPORTS

COMMUNITY FACILITIES: Troy Sampson stated the fire alarm project is coming along but has slowed down a little due to working around events. The LED project is wrapping up; although, we are adding an addendum to add the remaining areas of the building.

Troy Sampson reported

CIVIC CENTER:

Byron Dike reported that the Civic Center held an usher reception and training. Joann said it was very nice and doesn't remember anytime that they had been shown that type of appreciation. Byron reported that Starz on Stage is presenting Abba Cadabra on Thursday and it is sold out. He said that Friday the Civic Center will present the Roy Orbison Buddy Holly hologram show which is a pretty neat technology which is accompanied by a live band and backup singers. Then Saturday is Bollywood which has been popular for the last few years. Meanwhile, the Jehovah's Witnesses will be setting up for their assembly on Sunday that has averaged about 1600 people each event. Byron said next week we will have Postmodern Jukebox on Tuesday, Sanctus Real on Wednesday and the Symphony on Saturday. The Haunted House is planned again this year for Oct 29, 30 and 31.

STAFF UPDATE ON RFI FOR CIVIC CENTER USE: Kristi Ponozzo said that there is no specific deadline and that it should go out later this year or early next year. She said she does not yet have a draft but will show it to the board when it is ready. Kristi said she will leave it fairly open to see what people are willing to do. Kathleen Pace asked how it will go out. Kristi said it will be put on some industry websites and that it should go out pretty broadly. Judy Kline asked who will review the responses and Kristi said it would be a panel. Judy asked if the Civic Center Board would be a part of

that to which Kristi responded that they would. Bridget Holland asked if the RFI would be more about shows or about management. Kristi said they would be looking for letters of interest for managing interest, naming rights, office space rental, etc. Byron Dike added that he could see a positive from something like an AV, production, or concessionaire company being a partner. Judy Kline stated that the Civic Center board is an advisory board and should be kept in the loop and updated as well as be a part of the review process and recommendation. Bridget Holland said it is stated in the bylaws that the members' job is to make recommendations to the Commission on the Civic Center. Joann Christnacht mentioned that the auditorium is already named the Chase Patrick Auditorium. Skip asked what the difference is between the new RFI and the study that the Cultural Planning Group did a couple of years ago. Kristi said that it is different and it is for people to give their ideas. Skip said that is what people did when we had the study done. Byron stated that the study's report listed some options and that he feels the RFI is a continuance of that.

STAFF UPDATE ON CIVIC CENTER OFFICES: Troy Sampson reported that City staff is in the concept design phase for the Municipal court being moved into the Law and Justice Center with a goal prior to July. He said there were meetings today with the court to flush out problems with the design and their operations. The possibility of moving other City offices into the building is not quite there yet although the Civic Center offices are penciled into the design at this time. Kathleen Pace asked what the rationale of moving the offices is. Kristi Ponozzo said that it is to fill the Law and Justice Center with City offices. Bridget Holland asked won't it cause problems? Kristi said that she wouldn't worry about it right now as there are more important priorities for the City. Troy said the main push is to get the court in to the building and organizing space for them. Kathleen Pace stated that when she worked in that building when it was Blue Cross Blue Shield, they often had to walk back and forth between buildings and it was very inefficient.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOW: Kathleen Pace reported that all spaces are full; 89 spots each week. She plans to get with Byron on concessions and is excited that it is being done in house. Byron said he plans to have hotdogs and bratwurst one week and pulled pork or brisket the other week along with snacks and drinks. Skip is handling all the media and Judy will send pictures for Your Time. Mike and Judy will also try and get on the radio.

OLD BUSINESS: Skip asked if Byron had a new fee for the auditorium yet and Byron answered that he is working on some analysis and is not ready for the long term yet. He said staff is looking at maximizing the box office and getting creative to compete with other ticket outlets. He said the goal is to shift ticket costs from the client to the ticket buyer. Joann asked how many clients are using other outlets. Byron said those would include the Symphony, Queen City Ballet and the DUI Task Force. Judy asked who would work the box office and Byron said that he and Bridget do now and that they bring in others when needed for shows and such.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm. The next meeting of the board is November 12 at 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Johnston, Administrative Assistant III