

**CIVIC CENTER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 25, 2013**

Attendees:

CCC Members: Chairman Ed Pietrewicz, Commissioner Jim Knowlton, Vice-Chair Scott Najarian, Commissioner John Harrity Absent: Commission John Budd

City: Heather Gould & Rick Trifero

SMG: Sandy Dunn, Jim Moughan, Julia Iorio

Guests: Rick Rendon- Empower Peace, Rob Perella & Rose Pavlov – Ivy Child International

Minutes Prepared by: Paige Williamson, SMG

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Pietrewicz brought the meeting to order at 12:15pm.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2013

Vice-Chair Najarian motioned to accept the minutes of the March 28th, 2013 meeting; seconded by Chairman Pietrewicz. (4 yeas, 0 nays). *Motion passed.*

3. Rent Credit Request – 2013 Stand Up to Bullying – Submitted by Empower Peace & Ivy Child International

Rick Rendon provided an overview of their company and other events they have staged in Massachusetts targeted to middle and high school youth and focusing on acceptance, diversity, and, now, anti-bullying. The event they are currently proposing was held at Northeastern University in year one and the Tsongas Center/ Lowell last year with increasing attendances. The Worcester event is anticipating an excess of 6,000 students. The rent credit proposal consists of two (2) Arena days, plus use of one (1) Ballroom day - (Request includes a move-in day). The organizer has also met with the Worcester Sharks for a cross event promotion as they have an anti-bullying program in place. Target dates include **December 3rd, 2013 (Move-In December 2nd) or December 10th, 2013 (Move-In December 9th)**. Event time frame is approximately 8am – 1230pm with a lunch component. Organizers were informed that any food and beverage would need to be purchased through the facility that is consumed on property. Letters of support for this event were also distributed to the Commission for review including Congressman McGovern, Senator Michael Moore, City Councilors, School Committee Members among others. There is a plan to also attend the upcoming School Committee meeting on May 2nd.

Commissioner Harrity motioned to grant the request for two day Arena rent credit days plus one ballroom day usage for the 2013 Stand Up to Bullying event; Chairman Pietrewicz seconded the motion.

Discussion of available rent credit days remaining ensued. An updated summary of approved days thus far was provided by SMG. The Commission was reminded that if an overage of days was needed, Heather Gould could request through the City Manager for approval. The Commission recommended to Empower Peace that continued work be done to try and obtain sponsorships for this event which could include funds for the ballroom rental.

Chairman Pietrewicz amended Commissioner Harrity's initial motion to rather grant two (2) Arena days only; seconded by Commissioner Harrity. (4 yeas, 0 nays) *Motion passed.* Organizer was counseled that they could come back for an additional day at a later date but that the need was great this year and the Commission wanted to ensure enough days remained available for other requestors. Commissioner Harrity suggested for the organization to also look at the possibility of

utilizing school auditoriums for their meeting needs. Chairman Pietrewicz thanked Empower Peace for the wonderful effort to this important cause.

2014 Massachusetts State Republican Nominating Convention – Submitted by Massachusetts State Republican Party

Destination Worcester is currently in process of submitting a bid for this event with proposed rent credit days as follows; three (3) arena days (May 29-31, 2013), and two (2) South Exhibit Hall/Swing Hall (May 30-31, 2013).

Based on rent credit usage to date, one (1) Arena day may be approved now for the convention, with two (2) remaining arena days pending and subject to the City Manager's approval. The two (2) South Exhibit Hall/Swing Hall days in the Convention Center would be available to grant as of today's meeting.

Chairman Pietrewicz motioned to approve, as stated above, with the pending approval of the City Manager for the additional two (2) arena days needed; Commissioner Harrity seconded the motion. (4 yeas, 0 nays) *Motion passed.*

*Heather Gould will email the City Manager's decision to approve or deny the Civic Center Commissions recommendation for the two additional rent credit days in the arena for the convention needs so that the Republican Party can be notified prior to the next Commission meeting.

4. Major Projects

a. Capital Projects – Heather Gould

b. DCU Center Expansion & Refurbishment Project – Heather Gould

i. Sasaki Contract Amendment

Heather explained that she has been working with the Law Department on this amendment piece and would request that this item be tabled until the next meeting when more details are available.

5. SMG Reporting

a. Monthly Highlights – Sandy Dunn

Highlights – 3rd Annual self-promoted Brew Woo Festival, spear headed by our Marketing and Food & Beverage Department, was another great success. The evening session was a sell out this year!

The New England Basketball Hall of Fame (no affiliation with Springfield, MA) will be hosting an induction ceremony on June 22nd at the DCU Center. Very likely that celebrities will be coming to the area and potential for some great media coverage for Worcester. Expected attendance could be up to 3,000 people.

b. Sales Report – Jim Moughan

Highlights – The Massachusetts Emergency Management Conference (brought to us by the Rendon Meeting Planner Group, who applied today for the “Stand Up to Bullying” Event) consists of a two day/500 person per day conference. The Mass Hope Convention has also gone to contract through the year 2016.

The Thursday evening date in June, between all of the City of Worcester graduation ceremonies, has now been filled with Grafton High School Graduation. Assumption College is looking to bring their graduation ceremony in 2016. Continuing discussions with Quinsigamond Community College, as well, who are finishing up a multi-year tent contract, along with more conversations with Worcester Polytechnical Institute. Sandy Dunn commented that should all of these graduations go to contract for the arena facility, this will become quite challenging for the Worcester Sharks as it pertains to playoff scheduling. SMG is working closely with the Sharks to ensure a minimum impact while still taking the bookings.

c. Financial Statements – J.Iorio

General discussion of Financials – **February 2013**

Highlight – The Blizzard of 2013 had a financial impact on a few events including the Professional Bullriding Event, the Daughtry Concert (rescheduled to the following Monday evening from a Friday night play) and the Fishing & Outdoor Expo. The FOAM Event was a positive bonus as it had not been budgeted. The Sharks have done well this year with attendance numbers comparable with last year. Chairman Pietrewicz expressed the desire to thank the Worcester Sharks again this year for their tremendous community efforts. Sandy Dunn recommended inviting President Michael Mudd to the next Commission luncheon for a recap on another successful season.

Rick Trifero commented on behalf of Paul Moosey that the new estimated figure from Consigli for the airwall replacement/repair is \$295,000.00, down from \$450,000.00. Heather Gould stated that this piece would be submitted as a change order and funds would NOT be taken from the overall construction monies but, rather, funded through another mechanism.

6. New Business

7. Construction Progress Walk Through

a. 2013 Meeting Schedule – May 30, 2013 / 12pm

DCU Center Conference Room

Chairman Pietrewicz moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Vice Chair Najarian.
(4 yeas, 0 nays) *Motion passed.*

Meeting Adjourned – 1:10pm