

MINUTES
Spokane Public Facilities District
Board of Directors - Via Webinar
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 12:30 PM

ITEM #1 TO ORDER

Board Chair Larry Soehren convened the 793rd Meeting of the Spokane Public Facilities District at 12:30 PM.

ITEM #2 ATTENDANCE

In attendance via webinar was Board Chair Larry Soehren along with members Marty Dickinson, Nate Greene, Travis Tramp, and Mick McDowell. District personnel included CEO Stephanie Curran, Mike Gaffaney, Monte Koch, Ryan Wilson, Stephanie Huff, Brittany Garwood, Jessica Deri, Matt Meyer, Andrew Dolan, Kay Riplinger, Jene Iceberg, Holly Williams, Kay Riplinger, and Ellie Mauer. Guests included Andrew Brenner with Lydig Construction, Meg Winchester and Ruth Fitzgerald with Visit Spokane, Eric Sawyer and Ashley Blake from the Spokane Sports Commission, Dave Pier with Brett Sports and Entertainment, Ryan Nackers with Levy, Justin Kobluk with West Coast Entertainment, Colin Anderson with Integrus Architecture, Stuart Boylan with LCD Exposition Services, Intisar Surur from McBride Public Affairs, and Scott Taylor with The Car Park.

ITEM #3 CONSENT AGENDA

Board Chair Soehren presented the Consent Agenda items.

- Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2021

Mr. Tramp moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Ms. Dickinson seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM #4 DISTRICT BUSINESS

Korean War Memorial

Mr. Koch provided an overview of the Korean War Memorial project and introduced Heather Bahme and Kathy Swehla, of the Eastern Washington Veterans Task Force. Finances and funding are secured with no cost to the District for design, installation, and maintenance, and materials and media have been identified. The goal for completion is Memorial Day 2021.

Ms. Bahme and Ms. Swehla presented a slideshow of the Korean War and the Memorial. The Memorial will be located at the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena in the SE Plaza.

Ms. Dickinson moved to approve the Korean War Memorial project, Mr. Greene seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee

Mr. Greene noted the District financial advisors are working on bond paperwork.

Operations Committee

Mr. Tramp stated the Operations Committee met last week to review the Levy catering and banquet menu.

Mr. Nackers explained the menu is Covid-friendly, offers regional influences, and has upsell options. Concessions will be reviewed at a later date.

Mr. Tramp moved to approve the Levy Catering and Banquet Menu, Mr. McDowell seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Project Committee/Sportsplex/The Podium:

Project Update:

Mr. Brenner presented a slideshow of work at The Podium. The project is 75% complete, on schedule and budget. East side entrance to Fieldhouse outer materials progressing.

Coordination of the upper level mechanical room and pump room has been smooth.

Doors are being painted and installed. Door frames are 60% complete.

Restroom tiles on lower level installing and restroom work almost complete. Most of the plumbing was pre-fab work and has progressed smoothly.

Boom trough is flattening the concrete pour. Sand pit work is underway.

The Park area to the immediate south is tying in well with the project.

2020 4th Quarter Reports/2020 Year End:

Spokane Sports Commission:

Mr. Sawyer expressed apologies in the cancellation of today's planned press conference at the Podium. It will be re-scheduled after meeting with the governing bodies.

Ms. Blake and Mr. Dolan presented a slideshow of Spokane Sports Commission 2020 year end and 2021 plans.

Ms. Blake reviewed plans for sports staff and volunteers, described projects completed, in progress, and on deck, and an opening plan. Mr. Dolan explained the idea of an athlete village/multi-venue event experience.

Visit Spokane:

Ms. Fitzgerald reviewed a slideshow of 2020 year end.

Room nights: 67,431 cancelled in 2020, 37,489 have re-scheduled to 2021 and 2022-2027.

Spokane fared well in comparison to cities in our concept with re-booking at 66% indicating a good recovery period. Three large events lost for 2020 made up over 15,000 room nights and are not able to re-book in the near future: National Square Dance Convention, Paternal Order of Eagles, and The National Rural Letter Carriers Association. Some conferences booked in other cities 2021-22 are looking to book Spokane in 2023-2024. 2022 is setting up to be a strong year, possibly back to pre-pandemic within that year, and Visit Spokane is optimistic about 2023-24. Visit Spokane is putting together a marketing campaign for 2022-25 including focus groups, webinars, and trade show presence.

Spokane Convention Center:

Ms. Deri reviewed a slide show of the Spokane Convention Center 2020 Q4.

(45) events moved from 2020 to 2021, (26) events moved to from 2020 to 2022-2027.

Hotel rooms supported by the Convention Center were -97% in 2020 and economic impact -96.5%. In 2019, each home owner saw a tax savings of \$1,200.

The District sent gifts to national clients and promoters with local faire resulting in strong leads and positive response.

FICA/Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena

Mr. Meyer added gifts to clients/promoter resulted in positive comments and event leads.

The CHAS Testing Site at the Arena saw just under 9,000 visitors 4th quarter and at the beginning of February, 2021 has seen over 13,000.

The FICA is displaying the Spread Kindness campaign on front windows.

Mr. Meyer reviewed items procured through the CARES Act in partnership with Mr. Koch.

Shuttered Venues Act (SVOG) was passed and awaiting application.

CHAS/SRHD Vaccination Site at Arena: Plans begun in December and opened in January. Currently vaccinating (550) per day, with the goal of (4,000-7,000) per day when dose allotment is increased. The Secretary of Health was onsite yesterday to walk-through vaccination site.

CEO Update:

Vaccination Site: The logistics of coordinating parking and the flow inside has been smooth. There is a great partnership with DOH, CHAS, SRHD, and the District.

The estimation is that in March there will be more vaccines onsite than public demand.

Patty Murray's Office: Discussion including the Shuttered Venues Act (SVOG), parameters that recently changed allowing for the District to be eligible earlier, and Convention Center relief since they do not qualify for (SVOG). A follow-up call is expected including Visit Spokane to discuss economic impact of Convention Centers.

State Capital Budget: Deadline is next week, our lobbyists have been working hard for the District and assisting with the application process.

The Weeknd 4.20.2022: On sale this past Monday selling 2,000 in 20 minutes. The Arena is at 30% capacity sold at (15) months out.

Art: Visit Spokane has a commissioned art piece at former office location. Ms. Curran and Melissa Huggins with the Spokane Art Commission determined a wall space in the Convention Center promenade that will work well and be highly visible.

Spokane Chiefs: WHL to start March 19 and run through May 9 with (24) fan-less games. The schedule is in development, there will not be any playoff games. Mr. Pier and Mr. Meyer along with game day crew toured Arena this morning. Dashers and plexi glass up with ice install shortly. This is a great opportunity for players and coaches, games will be televised, and a plan is in place to coordinate with the vaccination site.

ITEM #6 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Soehren opened the Board Meeting for Public Discussion.

The next SPFD Board Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 12:30p.m. via Webinar and not held at the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena.

ITEM #8 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 1:17 PM.

Michelle McIntyre
Clerk of the Board

Approved by the
Board of Directors