

## **Five Flags Commission Meeting Monday September 29, 2009**

**Present:** Sue Balsamo, Rod Bakke, Cindy Fuller, Barb Kurt, Gil Spence, Joyce White, Don Howes, and Ali Levasseur

**Absent:** Commissioner Bryce Parks was absent.

Commissioner Bakke called meeting to order at 4:00pm

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Balsamo motioned to approve minutes of August 24 meeting. Commissioner Fuller seconded the motion, all approved.

### **Old Business:**

- On Aug. 27, 2009 GM forwarded the following files to the commission via Email:
  - Tom Lorenz's response to Dr. Field
  - Dr. Field's letter to the City Manager
  - City Manager's response to Dr. Field
  - Clean copy of Thunderbird Contract
- Commissioner Balsamo discussed her discovery of three original Frank J. Licciardi paintings in storage. As a means of raising funds to improve the historical photos and information in the Theater lobby, Sue proposed to auction off these paintings as a fundraiser. Discussion continued regarding the cost of these improvements and where funding could be found. The GM suggested Sue chair a sub-committee to determine the scope of the project and the possible cost and report back to the Commission. All agreed that the original paintings should be hung in the building rather than being auctioned. Gil suggested the money might come out the CIP budget or a possible operating surplus at the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner Bakke motioned a sub-committee to be chaired by Sue Balsamo. Commissioner Balsamo seconded, all approved. Ali Levasseur and Commissioner Kurt shared interest of being on the committee.
- GM reported that Youth Hockey Contract is finalized, signed, and insurance is secured.

### **New Business:**

- Commissioner Bakke presented the idea to have a special workshop to explore the future of the Five Flags Center Facility, outside of normal commission meeting.
- Commissioner Fuller stated that the commission should wait to see what the City's vision for the Five Flags center is before the commission goes too far.
- Gil Spence stated that SMG will discuss the plan for the building with the commission at a later date.
- GM passed a copy of section 2.6 of contract between SMG and City of Dubuque. This section of contract included the Non-Compete clause with the Grand River Center. Gil reported that the City to considering amending this Non-Compete clause to allow the Five Flags Center to hold conventions, flat floor shows, and other events.
- Commissioner Bakke then recommended placing the workshop on hold until the City Council made a determination on lifting operating restrictions.
- GM turned the meeting over to Gil Spence to provide report on the Development of the Dubuque Ice & Recreation Center Building.
  - Contracts and lease agreements between parties of the new ice arena were given to the Commissioners and Gil gave a concise overview of the contracts.
  - DICE is the local Youth Hockey group; Battlefield is the USHL hockey group. DICE, original building was designated for Youth Hockey and other ice user

groups, was originally estimated to cost 3.2 million with 500 seats. When Battlefield approached DICE, the building cost increased by \$3.3million, with 3,200 seats.

- Primary Funding
  - Original Grant from Vision Iowa or \$650,000
  - City Match \$50,000 (all the City has in the building)
  - \$1/year land lease paid to City.
  - \$1 million Grant from DRA, wants to hold concerts.
  - Other individual contributors and corporate funding
- What Happens
  - Eliminates Rugby
  - City will upgrade Parking with financial help from DRA to increase the number of parking spots to 700.
  - Five Flags will be prohibited from making ice as stipulated in the lease agreement between the City of Dubuque and DICE. Exhibit I lists all the ice equipment that DICE can remove from Five Flags, including ice plant, dashers, glass, ice decking, skates, zamboni, etc.
  - Gill continued with \$6.627 million estimated building cost and indicated that when the building is completed, it will be a City owned Building.
- Commissioner Fuller pointed out that including the equipment removed from Five Flags, the City is contributing more than the \$50,000 to the project. Furthermore, Five Flags will not be able to compete by offering ice time to other ice user groups.
- The DICE board of directors will consist of the arena Building Manager, President and CEO of DRA, member of Battlefield, City Manager or designee, and VP of Youth Hockey.
- Brian Southwood, employee of Mystique, created Southwood Management to manage the building.
- If five years from now, DICE walks away, Battlefield walks away, and other walk away, it will still be a City owned facility.
- As commissioners asked about other effects to Five Flags Center, the Exclusivity Clause on Ice was discussed. GM suggested commissioners asking the City Council to strike the Exclusivity Clause.
- Gil stated the City Council would not hear the Commission; they will sign off on the Contract October 5, 2009. Vision Iowa board will meet October 14, 2009 and make final decision of their funding. If Vision Iowa pulls the \$650,000; Battlefield will make-up that amount. All of the work that has been done on this project will not be unrecognized. The project is going to go through.

General Manager did not discuss the prepared and previously distributed departmental reports as Commissioners Bakke and Fuller needed to leave for other appointments.

#### **Adjournment of Monthly Commission Meeting:**

Commissioner Balsamo called to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kurt seconded.

***Next meeting: in the General Manager's Office on Monday October 26, 2009 at 4:00PM. Five Flags staff will place a call "Thursday before" and a "Tuesday of" email to remind commissioners of the meeting.***