

The Classic Center Authority Board of Directors
Monthly Board Meeting
November 19, 2024
4:00 pm

Members present: Tres Small, Jack Crowley, Jennifer Messer, Dexter Haynes

Others present: Paul Cramer, Philip Verrastro, Katie Williams

*Tres Small called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting were reviewed. With no further discussion, a motion was made by Jack Crowley to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Messer. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Philip Verrastro presented the financials to the board. The board reviewed the Balance sheet and the profit and loss statements for the month of October 2024. Following review and discussion, a motion to approve the financials was made by Jack Crowley. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Messer. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was no public comment at the meeting.

Paul Cramer presented the CEO report to the board, starting with the FY26 proposed budgeted. The FY26 budget includes a full year of the Arena. Philip Verrastro noted that the budget could change slightly once Athens-Clarke County provides estimates for hotel/motel tax. The budget, currently at \$30 million on the expense side, is higher due to anticipated department of labor laws. However, the budget will be adjusted now that the DOL laws have been overturned. Workers' compensation and insurance are much higher due to reclassification and a higher head count of workers.

The board agreed that the FY26 budget is directionally correct. They will review the final budget in December.

Paul Cramer went through the Arena building updates and training schedule. He shared with the board the plans for the grand opening events for the weekend of December 6.

Paul Cramer gave an update on the exterior signage for the Arena, noting that the Akins Ford Arena sign has been approved by Mayor and Commission. And the IGA for the Racial Center for Justice and Black Futures has also been approved.

The board engaged in discussion about the development the property surrounding the Arena and the possible impact of delaying development.

**The board went into executive session at 4:56 p.m. for the purpose of real estate discussion.

**The board ended executive session at 5:19 p.m.

Following executive session, Paul Cramer continued the CEO Updates, including arena sponsors, departmental updates, and staffing plans.

VOTE: Action items to approve: In the event of a lawsuit by Mallory and Evans, the board will cover the legal expenses for Jack Crowley as chairman of the board and/or individually. Motion was made by Jennifer Messer at 5:23 pm and seconded by Dexter Haynes. Jack Crowley recused himself from the vote. All in favor, minus the recusing of Jack Crowley, the motion passed.

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At the end of the meeting, Philip Verrastro gave an update on ticket sales for Arena events, noting they are going well!

The board meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.