

Minutes for MFF Board Meeting of November 29, 2020

Board members in attendance: Timothy Wood (Woody), Ian Layton (Rama), Lara Lester (Datahawk), Vince Lopez, Cheetah Goletz, and Robert King

This meeting is online.

Guests: Duncan, Tiller, Theome, RexCollie, Blithe

Absent: Toby Muroso (Perro)

AGENDA

- * Roll Call and Quorum Check
- * Approval of Minutes
- * Contract Status
- * SEI Status
- * New Business

Meeting start time – 11:05 pm CST

Welcome!

Roll Call and Quorum Check

All board members present except for Perro. This meets Quorum.

Note: There will be an executive session.

Approval of Minutes

Links to three sets of past minutes were distributed for review. (Oct 2019, Dec 2019, Feb 2020)

Cheetah asks if there was a bylaw update hidden in those minutes that didn't make it into the official document.

Motion to approve 3 sets of minutes conditional on Cheetah's satisfaction that we did not miss a bylaw update.

Motion passed unanimously.

Contract Status

Cheetah: 2021 contract status: Most everything is nailed down except for the Crown Plaza. Crown Plaza has offered us reasonable contracts for 2021-2024. These are zero attrition contracts, so risk to us is low even considering all the unknowns after Covid. We will make sure there is appropriate pandemic language. Cheetah suggests we go ahead with the Crown Plaza contracts.

Regarding risk: In general, if the event cannot be held due to force majeure/excessive risk due to the pandemic, the escape clause can only be exercised a few weeks before the convention. This shields the convention from the cost, but it is very tight timing for the attendees and causes them a lot of stress and havoc.

Note that the Hyatt Regency O'Hare has attrition language. If our event is not canceled due to force majeure, but we have low attendance, we need to be sure we have enough people show up to carry the contract. This can probably be accomplished by pulling back and filling the Hyatt Regency O'hare first.

The best information we have indicates that we are likely to have a near full size in person convention in 2021. It appears that we should go ahead with securing the Crown Plaza, the Comfort Inn, and the Aloft.

Vince: If we have an in person con, will we get enough staff? People may be afraid to work the convention.

Cheetah: I think this would scale proportionately with attendance. But we could scale the event down in the worst case.

Hyatt Regency O'Hare contract obligation is about 2000 attendees. Absolute worst case we have to pay the difference between actual room nights and 77% of commitment. (plus a \$100,000 hit for the convention center)

Sidebar: The question of whether we will be requesting proof of vaccination or similar mitigation of risk is one that we expect will be answered as best practices are established well before our event.

Motion to accept the no attrition contracts with Crown Plaza for 2021 through 2024.

Motion passed unanimously.

SEI Status

Woody: the director of SEI needs to temporarily step away from the job.

We have a good candidate to take this interim spot.

Cheetah: this interim position is guaranteed until Jan 2022.

New Business

Vince wants to address specifics on our financial resources and planning going forward.

Data: we need to get the ball rolling again to get new board members. Saying this just to put it on the docket.

Motion to enter Executive Session

Motion passes unanimously.

Begin Executive Session + Tiller

End Executive Session

Meeting closed at 12:58 pm CST

Minutes recorded and prepared by Robert King, Secretary