



**Heart of Illinois Hospitality Association**  
***Board Meeting Minutes***  
***Wednesday, October 25, 2017***  
***Host: Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino***

**Present:** **Dan Kouri**-Lariat Steakhouse, **Rick Swan**-East Peoria Chamber of Commerce, **Michael Freilinger**-Downtown Development Corporation, **Julie Bushell**-Four Points by Sheraton Peoria, **John Brinkman**-Four Points by Sheraton Peoria, **Josh Wright**-Peoria Civic Center, **Rikki Wallace**-Command Center, **Josh Burnett**-Jim Maloof Realtor, **Scott Phegley**-ServiceMaster, **Jodi Tarter**-Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino, **Steve Reed**-Stoney Creek Hotel, **Matt Nash**-Holiday Inn Express & Suites EP, **Carl Bunker & Katie Hart**-R&B Productions, Inc.

**Presidents Report:** Dan Kouri welcomed everyone to the meeting; Dan addressed the attending members letting them know the association lost a longtime member, Frank Pedulla passed away. Dan stated that Frank passed away from a heart attack while at home and was taken to the hospital then passed away there. Frank was an asset to the Hospitality Association and will be greatly missed. Dan also thanked the Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino for graciously hosting the meeting.

**Approval of August 23, 2017 Minutes:** Dan Kouri presented the August 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Julie Bushell motioned for approval of the minutes. Rick Swan seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Matt Nash reported the treasurer's report for August and September 2017. He stated that majority of the income and expenses were for the annual golf scramble along with monthly retainer and chargebacks to R&B Productions. Matt stated the checking account balance was \$9,717.65, also noting the CD Balance was \$6,931.60 for a total combined asset of \$16,649.25. Steve Reed motioned for approval of the Treasurer's report and Julie Bushell seconded the motion and the report was unanimously approved.

**2018 Slate of Officers:** Dan stated the Nominating committee consisting of Frank Pedulla, Steve Reed and Carl Bunker with Frank's passing, there will need to be a change since Frank was slated as Vice President for 2018. Dan reported the Proposed slate of officers for 2018-2019 are Steve Reed (Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center)-President, John Brinkman (Four Points by Sheraton Peoria)-Vice President, Phil Caplis (Two25)-Secretary and Josh Burnett(Maloof Realty)-Treasurer with Appointed Members being Don Welch (PACVB)-Honorary Vice President and Jess McMullin (Peoria Civic Center)-Honorary Vice President. Matt Nash motioned for approval of the slate of officers and Josh Burnett seconded the motion. Carl reported the officers would be sent out to the membership and final approval would be done at the Annual November meeting.

**Standing Reports:**

*Peoria Civic Center-* Jess McMullin was not in attendance due to illness. Josh Wright reported the Broadway series kicked off and was well attended. Josh also reported the arena was going to start getting busy again with the Season Opener for the Peoria Rivermen on Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> and Bradley basketball is starting in November. Josh also reported various upcoming entertainments that will be going on at the Civic Center along with other conventions that are coming up. Finally Josh reported they were prepping for the PNC Winterfest.

*PACVB:* Don Welch was not in attendance from PACVB, no report was given.

*IHLA:* Scott Dahl was not able to attend, please see attached update from Scott.

*IRA:* Mike Murphy was unable to attend, no report given.

*HOIHA Membership:* Carl Bunker reported that the membership billing would be going out November 1<sup>st</sup>, the total billing would be around \$11,500. Carl stated he would report on updates of existing and new members at upcoming meetings. Carl asked that anyone would have any suggestions for new members forward the contact information to him and he will happily reach out and work on getting them to join the association.

### **Committee Reports:**

*Golf Outing:* Dan Kouri reported there was a total income of \$9,962.97 for the annual golf scramble. Dan stated there were a couple more hole sponsors this year along with more golfers creating more income. Dan stated the income is split with PACVB, the shared net would be \$4,981.49, stating this payout would be after all income is received. Dan stated he asked Carl Bunker to work on getting event quotes with Metamora Fields, WeaverRidge Golf Club and Coyote Creek. Steve Reed stated we need to have the event at a reputable course as it increases attendance creating more income. Dan and Carl agreed with Steve's input, Carl stated he would work on obtaining the quotes and would present them to the committee at the first planning meeting.

*Rivermen Night:* Carl Bunker reported there were still tickets available to the Home Opener on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> if anyone wanted them; he directed them to contact Katie Hart for more information. Carl reported we had 100 tickets reserved for the evening.

*Holiday Reception:* Carl Bunker reported on the Annual Holiday Reception/next Membership meeting is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria IL. Carl stated food donations and door prizes were needed, he asked members to complete the attached form and return it to Katie as soon as possible.

### **Old Business:**

*Nothing to report.*

### **New Business:**

Carl Bunker reported the 2018 Calendar of Events are included in the meeting packet. He asked everyone to review the dates and if there were any that caused major conflict, to let him or Katie aware so meetings could be reviewed and rescheduled if needed.

*Downtown Development Corporation of Peoria:* Michael Freilinger reported that the SSA Taskforce, based on input from the downtown stakeholders and public, has recommended modify its recommendation for a downtown SSA as follows

- Elimination of the ¼% increase in the general sales tax
- Increasing the property tax assessment from \$0.58/\$1,000 to \$0.65/\$1,000
- Eliminating the virtual wayfinding
- Eliminating the 11 internal digital directories
- Changing the 9 external digital directories to external stagnant directories, updated quarterly
- Expanding the boundaries to include 20 square blocks between OSF - NE Adams Street and Spalding Avenue - Wayne Street
- Eliminating the East side of SW Washington between Persimmon Street to MacArthur Highway
- Reassign the 3 Advisory Commission seats for retailers to property owners
- Unless otherwise required by the City or the State, the Advisory Commission will not be subject to the Open Meetings & Open Records Act, but will hold open meeting and provide for public comment
- File the application after the first of the year, depending on local government budget decisions

Rick Swan passed out the brochure on the East Peoria Festival of Lights 2017.

John Brinkman reported the hotel was still on track to open March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. He said the restaurant and rooms were all on schedule and looking good. John stated they are diligently working on the basement HVAC but due to the age of the building they are running into “bumps” but are moving forward so employees who work in the lower level are not in horrible conditions like in the past years with the previous hotel.

John Brinkman asked if anyone listened to the City Council meeting and if they knew anything about the Hospitality tax that was brought up. John was unsure who/or what they were talking about but John was concerned of the effects it would have on those in the hospitality association. Carl Bunker stated he would check into the meeting minutes and would report back to John and the Executive Committee and set a meeting accordingly if needed.

Dan Kouri also spoke about the new Portillos coming to Peoria and how the developer is asking for 1% take rebate for the next 30 years to help re-coup for what he paid for the property. Dan Kouri stated they would be voting on this on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

With no further discussion, Julie Bushell motioned for the meeting to adjourn and Matt Nash seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Katie Hart*

HOIHA Association Management