

PFD BOARD SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

November 16, 2023, Noon

Location: Town Toyota Center
1300 Walla Walla

Avenue Wenatchee, WA 98801



Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Meeting Agenda
2. Minutes (October 26, 2023)

Public Comment: (please state your name and address, and please limit to 3 minutes)

Agenda Items:

1. **Manager's Report**
 - a. Shows/Events
 - i. Wenatchee Wild
 - ii. Mannheim Steamroller
 - iii. Cirque Dreams Holidaze
 - iv. WWE
 - b. Sales & Marketing
 - c. Live Animal Acts/Events
2. **Sales Tax Report – Submitted by Cordell, Neher & Co., PLLC**

PFD Board Special Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2023, Noon

Town Toyota Center
1300 Walla Walla Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801



Board Members Present:

Frank Kuntz (Chairman)
JC Baldwin (Vice-Chairman)
Jerrilea Crawford (Member) (12:10pm)
Randy Agnew (Member)
Tim Hollingsworth (Member)
Jim Fletcher (Member)

In Attendance: Mark Miller, Town Toyota Center General Manager, Aaron Harvey, Town Toyota Center Assistant General Manager, Cindy Herdt, Lindsay Rey, Dave Mann, Anna Warsinske, Chris Berg, Jamie Goodman - Town Toyota Center Staff. Guest – Mike Poirer, approx. 15 guests

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by Chairman Frank Kuntz

Consent Items

1. Meeting Agenda for November 16, 2023
2. Vouchers, 2023 (Not available)
3. Meeting Minutes October 26, 2023

Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda consent items. Motion Passed 5-0.

Transaction Recap Not Available.

Public Comment

No Public Comments. Public comments regarding the live animal events will be heard when that agenda item comes up.

Agenda Items:

1. Manager's Report

a. Shows/Events

- i. Wenatchee Wild – The Wenatchee Wild are having a winning season so far and have won the last 9 of their 11 games.
- ii. Mannheim Steamroller – This concert will be held on Sunday November 26, 2023. This year is a rental event.
- iii. Cirque Dreams Holidayze – Christmas show scheduled for December 22, 2023.

iv. WWE – This is our first event for 2024 and is scheduled for January 7, 2024.

b. Sales & Marketing - Suites for the Wild games sell out.

c. Live Animal Acts/Events – The Board meeting had approximately fifteen members of the public in attendance for this agenda item. Public Comments given were:

- Margie Kerr – Ms. Kerr was here to state she supported the proposal to eliminate live animal acts at the Town Toyota Center. She described loving the circus as a child but has since learned about the care and mistreatment of these performance animals. She mentioned several books and studies on animal welfare and noted her faith confirms we should not hurt living things. She believes the Town Toyota Center can maintain quality entertainment but not at the expense of animals.
- Kris Cameron – Ms. Cameron first congratulated members of the board who were recently re-elected. She followed up on a few points made by board members the previous meeting. First was they “they were not experts” in this area. Ultimately, there is plenty of expert information from numerous sources available. Another concern was the setting of what could become a slippery slope of decision making based on limited objections/opinions. She noted the primary concern here is the unsuitable housing for these animals and this does not spill over to any other area or activities at the arena. She believes that kindness is a primary characteristic of our communities and this should extend to animals. She continues to support the Town Toyota Center’s elimination of participation in the unnecessary suffering and exploitation of animals.
- Stu Smith – Mr. Smith explained he grew up in Pendleton, OR and the Pendleton Rodeo. He described his personal experience with poor treatment of rodeo animal in the back of the rodeo grounds. These events changed his opinion of rodeos and live animal events and he supports the discontinuation of them.
- Brooke Compton – Brooke said she has two degrees in animal science and she comes from a rodeo family. She also came to voice her opposition to events with live animals.

Mark thanked the community members for their public input. He agrees that this is an emotional issue and that his position as the General Manager is to neither defend or deny events but to answer questions the board members posed to him at the prior meeting. Keeping in mind that the focus of the arena has always included quality entertainment, quality of life and economic impact as key focuses.

- First is which arena events have animals? Those would include the Jordan World Circus, The Hell on Hooves Rodeo, the jaripeos (Latino rodeos),

some Magic shows, the Sportsman's trade show, the Dog Days of Summer and Paws Day with the Wenatchee Wild.

- Impact – the circus is a two-day event with three performances. It's a no-risk event and nets approximately \$30K. Each performance sells out to capacity. The Hell on Hooves Rodeo is a two-day at-risk co-pro (+/- \$100K) event. It generally sells out all performances to capacity or expected capacity and nets between \$40-60K each year. The various magic shows are single performance, arena rental events that net \$5-10K each. The Sportsman Show is a multiple day rental trade Show that nets about \$30K annually. They have not attended since the COVID shutdown. The Wild event consists of individuals bringing personal pets for show and activities and is an annual theme night for a scheduled home game.
- Housing of animals – the animals for the rodeo events are here 6-8 hours and are not house at the arena overnight. They are kept separate from the people for the safety of both. There is 6-10" of dirt in the holding pens and back of house area. The elephants for the circus are on stroy-pads inside and straw outside.
- Additional Information – info provided from either side is skewed towards varying personal beliefs. Mark reiterated that according to the PFD resolutions, booking of events falls to the General Manager. The PFD Board level may not be the proper place to make this decision and should be considered at legislative (city, county, state levels). Both the IAVM and Venue Coalition have discussed this issue.
- Staff recommendation - Arena Management takes pride in being transparent, adaptable and flexible to work with diverse and unique artists, entertainers and agencies. With that in mind the process starts with date availability, no discrimination, legal activities, payment of rack rates, and non-competitive events. Management and staff have no personal preference input on animal acts or other controversial events (politics, religion, etc.). However, contract requirements can be beefed up in terms of level of care requirements. An example would be third party inspections.

Comments from Board members:

Following the Public Comment and Mark's responses, the board members discussed concerns including whether or not changing booking authority was the way to proceed or not, whether or not the board had legal authority to prevent or disallow legal activities at the arena, whether and/or when to seek legal advice and how to reconcile "Wenatchee" to the "PFD District" to maintain fair representation. They also discussed how to divide domestic animal events from wild/exotic animal events. It was

noted that the arena serves between 80-100K population and there have only been minimal concerns to-date presented to the board. All board members were in agreement on zero-tolerance of animal abuse and felt oversight and inspection could be stepped up through the USDA and the local Humane Society inspections. In the end, they felt they are not ready for a formal board decision on this and restated that the arenas regional audience needs to be considered. They did note there has been a cultural shift in what people expect from the entertainment industry and change will take time. The board also discussed whether an advisory vote would be appropriate.

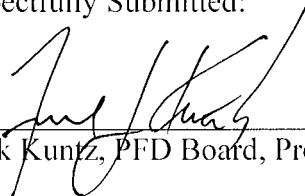
Other: The financial statements were not available since the meeting was rescheduled but Dave did review the Sales Tax Revenues. Three of our Sales Tax accounts at Banner Bank have been converted to money market accounts and will now accrue approx. 5% interest. Frank mentioned that we should start discussing the possibility of calling bonds.

2. Sales Tax Report – Submitted by Cordell, Neher & Co., PLLC

The monthly sales tax review from Cordell, Neher was presented. The Board did not have and questions or concerns.

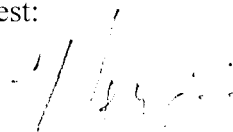
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



Frank Kuntz, PFD Board, President

Attest:



Cindy Herdt – Administrative Assistant