

CIVIC CENTER TASK FORCE

MEETING MINUTES

2/15/08

Called to order at 0800 by Chair Neal Pratt. Those in attendance: Pratt, Menario, Crane, Gray, Cohen, Petrovek, Feeney, Whitten.

It was discussed to have Deb Andrews at the next meeting to discuss the “historic District” plans for the City, including the area around the Civic Center. Joe will talk with her about the meeting. It was confirmed the Council will have the final decision on this possibility. The potential impact will also be discussed with JMS.

A discussion was held on the specific challenges from the latest plans, led by Steve. He defined the five areas he saw: capacity, restrooms, dressing rooms, loading dock and concessions. Brian felt it should also include fan amenities. Steve felt the rest rooms and concession areas had been adequately addressed and the space and needs improved. His areas of concern were specifically the loading area, which could be alleviated with the take over of Center St. The possibility of that depends on the relocation or allocation of Spring and Free streets, according to Joe. The dressing room areas were much improved, but needed to be dual use areas, to include catering areas for acts and possible locker rooms.

A discussion followed about the number and usage of locker rooms and if we wanted to meet the needs of events such as NCAA tourneys, basketball and football teams, and to what extent are locker rooms necessary and how many.

Steve pointed out the lower level “café” was needed for storage for BB floor, chairs, etc and not for a restraint. He mentioned as to how there was over 5000 sq ft of additional restraint space in the drawings and this was necessary for operations. This again, could vary depending on Center St. usage and availability. The question was tabled.

Capacity was next addressed, with Steve saying the retractable seating and stage would not work, as the stage in the drawings was 20 feet too small and all stages needed to be larger, which would then cause issues with seating as designed. He also mentioned the “I” beam at the back of the stage which is a major support beam and would be in the way of stage retraction. Discussion was held again, about Center St. and the possibility of moving the loading area back, and therefore, the stage. This will be presented to JMS. It was decided we need to define the needed capacity to be viable and achieve the CC goals for revenue. It was determined JMS or staff should attend Blue Man Group to understand better how a concert works and the issues involved.

ADA seating was then discussed, and how much true impact that had on seating capacity. Discussion about revenue versus seating capacity and a business model for same was determined to be necessary, with information from JMS.

Steve mentioned how important the current usage of Free and Spring St is for concerts and the traveling buses for road crew and acts, and how efficiently that currently works for staging areas and should not be changed.

Steve mentioned having two box offices can be very difficult to manage.

Neal will be in touch with JMS ASAP to provide the following questions, to ask her or her staff to attend Blue Man Group and for them to be in touch with Steve and staff to discuss operations. Questions:

- 1) What is your best shot at capacity?
- 2) How to expand the stage and retractable seating area to meet needs.
- 3) Understand concert needs by attending BMG
- 4) Revenue stream projection?
- 5) Work directly with Steve and staff for new updates and needs.

The next meeting date/time are currently in the process of being set up.

B Whitten

2/15/08