

**Minutes of the Board of Directors
Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau
Wednesday November 1, 2023**

Members Present: Doug Peters, Clare Hughes, Tanner Tweten, Ramon Sosa, Kember Anderson, Casey Sanders-Berglund, Holly Heitkamp, Emily Nielsen, Nicole Steen Dutton, James Stinsman, Kimberly Busch

Members Absent:

Others Present: Charley Johnson, Pres/CEO, Marissa Porter, Sports Account Manager, Danni Melquist, Dir. of Marketing, Josey Balenger, FMSM

- Chair Doug Peters called the meeting to order.
- A motion was made (Clare), seconded (Kember), and passed approving the September 27 Minutes.
- FM Science Museum Executive Director Josey Balenger gave a presentation on plans for the SM, which is targeted to open in 2027. She expects to come back in the future to request a Destination Development Grant from our Capital Fund.
- The CEO & Board reviewed the September financials.
- After some discussion, Tanner, Nicole, Ramon & Emily expressed interest in taking part with Danni & Rachel in setting up a DEI committee to review ways the CVB can become more inclusive in its hiring and marketing strategies.
- The CEO asked the Board to consider financial involvement in expansion of the NDSCS Culinary program into Fargo, primarily as a workforce initiative for the local restaurant community. Charley explained that the support group need to raise \$100,000 to trigger a \$100,000 match from NDSCS, which would allow the program to hire another faculty member and expand class offerings in Fargo, rather than just in Wahpeton. The Board voiced support for the idea but asked Charley to do a little more research on how this program could or would tie into any similar programs at M-State in Moorhead.
- The CEO and Board briefly reviewed the recent Strategic Planning session with Bill Geist. Bill will return in February to present the draft plan.
- The Group discussed, again, the possibility of amending FMCVB Bylaws to allow for an expanded pool of eligible hotel employees for Board positions. The group specifically discussed the idea of opening the election process to management level employees who report to hotel GMs, and to the possibility of allowing GMs who may be promoted to corporate level roles in their company to at least finish out their current term.
- Tanner moved adjournment, Nicole seconded, and the motion passed.

The Board is advised to avoid hitting "Reply All" on emails, as doing so could trigger an open meeting requirement.

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for 7:30 am on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, in the FMCVB Boardroom.
If necessary, there will be a virtual option on MS TEAMS.