

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE LOS ANGELES MEMORIAL COLISEUM COMMISSION**

May 29, 2014

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission was convened in the Commission Board Room on Thursday, May 29, 2014, and called to order at 2:50 p.m. by President Ridley-Thomas.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Mark Ridley-Thomas, President  
Commissioner Tom LaBonge (Alternate)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Attorney Thomas Faughnan  
Attorney Noreen Vincent  
Kathy Markarian, Chief Administrative Officer  
Greg Hellmold, Interim Chief Financial Officer  
Joe Furin, General Manager, Coliseum and Sports Arena

**ABSENT:** Commissioner William Chadwick, Vice President  
Commissioner Curren D. Price, Jr.  
Alternate Don Knabe  
Ex-officio member Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Sr.  
Ex-officio member Senator Ricardo Lara

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Ridley-Thomas invited Public Comment, to which two individuals responded. Members of the public, Diane Sher and Joe Essy addressed the Commission.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Ridley-Thomas requested a motion to approve the draft minutes of the regular meeting of March 26, 2014 and the special meeting of April 25, 2014. There were no requests for revisions to the draft minutes.

**ACTION:** By Common Consent, there being no objection, and seconded by Commissioner LaBonge, with Commissioners Chadwick and Price being absent, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 26, 2014 and the special meeting of April 25, 2014 were approved.

## 5. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Ridley-Thomas thanked everyone who participated in helping to appropriately celebrate in the installation of the Nelson Mandela plaque on May 14, 2014 in the Court of Honor. It was a well-attended event that sent the right message that memorializes an international icon in an international venue. The University of Southern California, as well as Commissioners and other dignitaries from the United States and South Africa were present. President Ridley-Thomas thanked all those involved in making this event happen as intended.

## 6. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Markarian provided a report on the following items:

1. Status of CalPERS Audit
2. USC Loan
3. Olympic Gateway Statues Refurbished

**President Ridley-Thomas indicated that at the appropriate time, staff might want to look into the matter noted during public comment that from inside the Coliseum the temporary suites block the ionic view of the peristyle**

4. Quarterly Report to USC
5. Coliseum Association Updates
6. Update on Trademark Applications

**President Ridley-Thomas requested the Chief Administrative Officer and Counsel to confer and give an appropriate response to the issue raised during public comment regarding trademark revenue.**

**Attorney Faughnan responded that the trademarks are addressed in the lease with USC and that the Commission receives \$20,000 annually as a royalty payment which is an amount that can be changed after five years pursuant to an independent appraisal of the value of the royalty.**

7. Nelson Mandela Inducted into the Coliseum's Court of Honor

## 7. INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR FY 2014-15

Ms. Markarian provided the Commission with a summary of the Commission's insurance policies expiring on June 30, 2014 and requested approval to procure insurance for FY 2014-2015.

**ACTION: By Common Consent, there being no objection, with Commissioners Chadwick and Price being absent, the**

**Commission authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to procure insurance policies for the same coverage and limits as in FY 2013-14, with the exception of Crime and Workers Compensation policies, which are no longer necessary.**

## **8. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ms. Markarian provided a report on the following:

- a. Financial report for December 2013 through April 2014
- b. Proposed revised Operating Budget for FY 2013-14

**ACTION: By Common Consent, there being no objection, with Commissioners Chadwick and Price being absent, the Commission approved as amended, the revised Operating Budget for FY 2013-2014 with the following revisions to the FY 2013-2014 budget:**

- **Increase in Salaries and Employee Benefits of \$47,993. This increase is needed due to the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees (IATSE) Pension Trust withdrawal liability claim received by the Commission in November 2013. The amount reflects the monthly payments being made to the IATSE Pension Trust since December 2013.**
- **Increase in Legal Fees of \$120,000 due to legal costs associated with review of the IATSE Pension Trust withdrawal liability claim and other unanticipated legal costs.**

- c. Proposed Operating Expense Budget to USC for FY 2014-15

**ACTION: By Common Consent, there being no objection, with Commissioners Chadwick and Price being absent, the Commission approved the FY 2014-2015 Operating Expense Budget for USC; and authorized the CAO to present the Operating Expense Budget to USC for increased funding beginning July 1, 2014.**

- d. Proposed Operating Budget for FY 2014-15

Ms. Markarian noted that the proposed operating budget assumes reimbursement from USC of \$511,241 during FY 2014-2015 and no repayments on the USC loan. Ms. Markarian also noted that there are a number of uncertainties that cannot be included in the budget at this time. President Ridley-Thomas stated that the Commission will need to be apprised of any unanticipated issues that emerge to which Ms. Markarian concurred.

**ACTION: By Common Consent, there being no objection, with Commissioners Chadwick and Price being absent, the Commission approved the Commission Operating Budget for FY 2014-2015.**

**9. MARCH 31, 2014, SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT FROM USC FOR THE PERIOD JULY 29, 2013 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013**

Ms. Markarian presented USC's first semi-annual report for the period July 29, 2013, through December 31, 2013. The semi-annual report included information regarding:

- 1) Completed and planned events
- 2) Capital repair or improvement projects
- 3) Operating receipts, operating expenses and capital improvement and repair cost reports in furtherance of the provisions of Section 4.3 (Cumulative Calculated Amount)

**The Chief Administrative Officer will prepare an executive summary for the Commission and USC's semi-annual report was received and filed.**

**10. USC REPORT – UPDATE ON EVENTS AND CAPITAL REPAIRS/IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr. Joe Furin, USC (General Manager of the Coliseum & Sports Arena) presented the Commission with general information regarding:

- a. Completed and planned events and
- b. Capital repair or improvement projects underway or proposed

Mr. Furin stated that most of the facility improvements have been related to aesthetic improvements and that they are doing facility assessments.

Commissioner LaBonge noted that this year is the 20th anniversary of the 1994 Northridge earthquake and recognized John Parkinson, the great architect of the Coliseum and many other buildings in Los Angeles. Commissioner LaBonge also discussed William Garland's visit to Belgium in 1920 and his efforts to bring the Olympics to Los Angeles. Commissioner LaBonge noted that this year is also the 30th anniversary of the 1984 Olympics held at the Coliseum. Commissioner LaBonge stated that this is a year to highlight the Coliseum. President Ridley-Thomas agreed and suggested that staff and USC research the opportunity to recognize/celebrate such events and individuals.

11. COLISEUM/SPORTS ARENA TRADEMARKS PROPOSED BY USC

Ms. Markarian presented USC's proposed Coliseum/Sports Arena trademarks/logos. USC's proposed new marks are intended to provide an updated look/feel signaling a new era of the Coliseum/Sports Arena. This is a refresh to the peristyle-themed logo that the Commission has been using. The new logo prominently features the Coliseum iconic peristyle and Olympic Cauldron.

USC intends to use the new marks to create a consistent brand message moving forward. The marks will be used for both internal branding (e.g. stationary, business cards, etc.) and external marketing efforts (e.g. website, marketing collateral, advertising, signage, etc.).

The Commission raised various questions regarding the Commission's previously registered marks, the use of the Olympic rings, and whether USC intends to trademark its proposed marks. Attorney Vincent stated she will also follow-up with Philip Lam (intellectual property counsel) who has been advising the Commission on trademarks and who previously processed the Commission's trademark registrations.

**President Ridley-Thomas requested that this item brought back at the next meeting for disposition pending answers to the Commission's questions.**

12. RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE POLICY ON SELECTION OF PUBLIC INTEREST EVENTS

Ms. Markarian presented a draft policy on the selection of public interest events to the Commission for consideration.

**ACTION: On motion of President Ridley-Thomas and seconded by Commissioner LaBonge, unanimously carried, with Commissioners Chadwick and Price being absent, the Commission approved the Selection of Public Interest Events Policy.**

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

Commissioner LaBonge indicated that he would like to introduce three motions to nominate Mike Haynes, Marcus Allen and Rod Martin for inclusion in the Coliseum Memorial Court of Honor. Attorney Faughnan stated that this item will need to be placed on the next agenda for consideration by the Commission.

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### CLOSED SESSION

Attorney Faughnan announced that the Commission would meet in Closed Session regarding the matters listed on the printed agenda. Closed Session commenced at 3:32 p.m.

### RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Commission returned to Open Session at 3:52 p.m.

### REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

Attorney Faughnan announced that that there were no reportable actions taken by the Commission during Closed Session.

### ADJOURNMENT

Announcing the completion of the business set forth on the printed agenda, President Ridley-Thomas declared the meeting of the Coliseum Commission to be adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

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Secretary