

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL RIVERBOAT COMMISSION**

**October 17, 2017 at 4:45 p.m.
Reding & Santiago, PLC Offices
FORT MADISON, IOWA**

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm by Steve Staebell, president (BRL)

Commissioners Present:

Dave Walker (BRL), Chuck Kempker (FM), Steven Link (FM), Justin Pieper (FM), Joe Steil (K), Kirk Brandenberger (K), and Dave Schwartz (K).

Commissioners Absent:

Terry Johnson

Guests:

Rob Higgins – General Manager, Catfish Bend Casinos
Reporter from Daily Democrat, Jeff Hunt, was present.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

None

Approval of email agenda in lieu of July 2017 meeting

TREASURER’S REPORT:

- A. August Financial Report
 - a. Dave Walker made a motion to approve the August financial report, said motion was seconded by Kirk Bradenberger.
 - b. Report passed on unanimous voice vote.
- B. September Financial Report
 - a. Dave Walker made a motion to approve the September financial report, said motion was seconded by Joe Steil.
 - b. Report passed on unanimous voice vote.
- C. October Financial Report
 - a. Dave Walker made a motion to approve the October financial report, said motion was seconded by Dave Schwartz.
 - b. Report passed on unanimous voice vote.

CATFISH BEND CASINOS L.C. REPORT:

Rob Higgins informed the Commission that there was a slight drop in income, but pointed out the company is going back to 2014 numbers. Rob suggested possible reasons for anomalies such as the downturn in farming income and the completion of the fertilizer plant.

Rob reported on the Catfish October promotion involving the winning of game tickets to Bears and Packers game.

Rob gave a summary of the status of current building progress. That Panera, for whom Catfish is a landlord, is doing well, but the company is not the franchisee. Work is completed on Coldstone and it recently opened which is an entity that will be owned as a franchise. Also the Hampton Inn which is going to be a sixty-nine room facility will open which he believes will be the beginning of next year.

Rob explained that they are looking forward to events at Christmas and New Year. They are in the process of lining up quality entertainment for those two holidays.

Rob excited about the prospect of sports betting in Iowa with a Court decision scheduled for December 4th of this year. That the casinos are established and would be the best resource for implementing sports betting.

Rob also provided information regarding new rules on self-barring, and new possibilities for reinstatement.

IRGC LICENSE RENEWAL MEETING:

Dave Walker gave a report on the success of the meeting. He remarked that the meeting took longer this year as a result of the additional issues to discuss. He commented that the Catfish Bend organization is well respected and has a wonderful working relationship with SIRRC. Steve Staebell reported that he was unable to attend and that Dave went as he was having health concerns. That he is still in the process of treatment.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Steve Staebell asked if anyone was interested in holding executive office to keep in mind the elections at the January 16th meeting.

REPORTS TO IGA:

Rob Higgins handed out a flyer showing the benefit of gaming to the state of Iowa. He informed that when a patron hits a jackpot if they owe taxes or child support or the state for any reason the casino collects the sum before paying the

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patron. That the casinos have benefitted the state on collections in a sum of over twelve million.

OTHER BUSINESS – SIRRC AUDIT

David Walker reported that the SIRRC audit will be coming up and that with timing we should approve going forward now. A motion to go forward with the audit was made by Steven Link and seconded by Dave Schwartz and approved by unanimous voice vote.

It was reported that the next meeting will be January 16, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT:

Steven Link made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Commission, Chuck Kempker seconded said motion.

Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEY FOR COMMISSION