

**NATO of Illinois Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Downers Grove, Illinois**  
**June 15, 2016**

**DRAFT**

Chris Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Chris Johnson, Classic Cinemas  
Mark Gramz, Marcus Theatres  
Dean Kerasotes, Kerasotes ICON  
Tom Fencl, Davis Theater  
Heath Thomas, Goodrich Quality Theaters  
Jeremy Curtis, Goodrich  
Willis Johnson, Classic Cinemas  
Jason Grindstaff, Cinemark  
Jeff Kunstman, AMC  
Ana Mejia, Pacific / Arclight  
John Rot, LaGrange  
Stanley Sobyra, LaGrange  
Mary Ann Frank, NATO of Illinois

**Absent:**

Buffalo Grove  
Edge 5  
Regal  
Glen Theater  
New 400 / Harper  
Logan Square  
Landmark Theatres  
Pickwick Theatre  
Lincoln Theatre  
F & F  
Art Theater  
Lory  
NCG  
Glen

**Guests:**

Jeff Glass & Rich Guidice - Capitol Consulting (CCG)

General introductions.

**Legislative Session Review**

Jeff Glass of Capitol Consulting Group, commented on the current status of issues being discussed by the Illinois Legislature, as well as expectations for the coming months and upcoming election.

General: Jeff noted that the regular session ended with no adjournment and no budget for the second consecutive year. Activity is mostly at a standstill at this point, but work continues behind closed doors through “working groups”, before legislators will be called back down to Springfield for any votes. The one advantage of the inactivity is that no major issue bills were passed concerning minimum wage or soda taxes.

Closed Captioning: Rep David Harris of Arlington Heights had proposed an open captioning bill based on the wishes of a vocal constituent. Working with CCG, Chris Johnson and John Scaletta, he agreed to modify the bill to reflect the federal agreed upon standards for closed captioning, dropping the open captioning component. Speaker Madigan also agreed to hold the bill without a vote in anticipation that movement on the federal level will occur this summer and eliminate the need for any bill.

Soda Tax: While Chicago continues to discuss this option, CCG continues to monitor all state working groups as they discuss potential revenue sources.

Minimum Wage: This issue has been on the back burner all year, but an increase is almost certain to be part of any eventual budget deal. Several bills were presented, but advocates have been dealing with other issues. CCG will continue to work on including a pre-emption clause as part of any final negotiations. In addition, Gov Rauner seems to be in favor of a training wage.

Paid Leave: CCG has been monitoring several bills on “working conditions”, but nothing has gained real momentum.

Miscellaneous: 1) Tensions continue to run high between the Governor and Speaker Madigan, with neither side seeming inclined to budge on their primary concerns. Sources believe that Madigan and Cullerton are confident that they will maintain their respective majorities in the fall election and plan to bide their time in anticipation of ousting Rauner in the 2018 Gubernatorial race; 2) a 6 month budget is likely to be approved this summer in order for schools to open. Legislators are no longer being paid by the State, which could prompt pressure for action on budget deal; 3) Changes to Pension law and Redistricting are popular ideas in general, however a Constitutional Convention would be required for any changes, making them a harder sell.

Heath questioned whether there was interest in ticket taxes. Jeff noted that the issue had not been included yet, with the focus being on taxing more services.

With no further questions, Chris thanked Rich and Jeff for the update, as well as their continued efforts on our behalf.

### **Federal Issues**

Mark noted that as part of the NATO Government Relations Commission, he had been in DC working on ADA legislation. ADA lawsuits can win accessibility, but are not able to receive monetary compensation. Since many lawyers specialize in creating issues as a source of revenue, the commission is trying to push legislation which would require notification to businesses prior to legal action, with sufficient time to react.

The National Labor Relations Board ruled that franchisors can be held liable for the actions of franchisees, defining them as employees. The GR Commission is also trying to ensure that contractors (i.e. janitorial) will not be defined as “employees” of a business.

### **Approval of June 18, 2016 Minutes**

No corrections or changes. *Motion by Willis, second by Mark, to accept the minutes. All in favor.*

### **Membership Development**

In a concerted effort to increase membership, Chris noted that recent efforts at direct communication / recruiting resulted in the addition of Pacific / Arclight and another contribution of \$3150 from Carmike. Efforts continue, particularly with AMC.

### **Appointments to Board of Directors**

Term renewals (2016-2018):

Tony Kerasotes – Bob Goodrich / Heath Thomas – Mark Gramz – Tom Fencl – Dino Vlahakis

New terms: None

*Motion by Dean, second by Willis, to approve the term renewals. All in favor.*

### **Election of Officers, effective July 2016**

Nominations for all Officer positions were opened for all members to consider. Receiving no new nominations from the floor, Officers were re-elected as follows:

Chris Johnson, President; Tony Kerasotes, V.P.; Heath Thomas, Secretary; Mark Gramz, Treasurer.

*Motion by Willis, second by Tom, to approve the slate of officers. All in favor.*

### **Program Review / Update**

Chris gave a brief summary of the applications and winners from 2016, and thanked the judges. Members supported the continued digital distribution of applications and supported the continuation of the program.

Members were also thanked for supporting the Organ Donor Trailer program, which was distributed to 421 screens in April. Chris noted that Secretary of State Jesse White has indicated he will not run for re-election, which could change the future of this program.

*Motion by Dean, second by Heath, to continue the Scholarship and Organ Donor Programs. All in favor.*

## **New Business**

Annual Budget / Financial Overview: Chris noted that YTD bank account activity statements and outstanding expenses were provided with the agenda packet.

Geneva Convention Hall of Fame: Chris explained that State and Regional units are asked to nominate an individual for the Geneva Convention Hall of Fame each year and asked for suggestions. The nominees should have been involved in exhibition in Illinois for a long time. Pat Rembusch, a film buyer from a family of owners, had been mentioned as a potential nominee, if members were in favor. Dean Kerasotes gave a brief overview of Pat and his plans to retire this year.

*Motion by Dean, second by Mark, to nominate Pat Rembusch to the Geneva Hall of Fame. All in favor.*

## **NATO Recertification**

Chris noted that NATO of Illinois is up for recertification in the Fall. As part of the process, members were asked to report on their attendance at NATO Board Meetings and Summits over the past two years. Chris and Mark had each attended enough meetings to fulfill our obligations.

**Old Business** Heath asked about any hearing assistance legislation being proposed. Chris noted that it was all part of the Closed Captioning parameters. Mary Ann promised to forward the specific details to Heath.

## **Announcements**

Geneva Convention 2016: Sept 14 - 16, 2016 - Lake Geneva, WI

NATO General Meeting & Fall Summit: Sept 27 - 29, 2016 – Marina del Rey, CA

ShowEast: October 17 - 20, 2016 – Fountainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida

89<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards: Feb 26, 2017

CinemaCon 2017: March 27 - 30, 2017 – Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, NV

Chris gave Mark an opportunity to discuss the opportunities available to members with attendance at the Geneva Convention. Mark noted that many attendees commented on the unique access to vendors over larger conventions. Chris noted that ShowEast has been moved to South Beach, in an effort to boost attendance. One advantage of this trade show is the higher number of screenings generally shown.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Frank