



## MEETING OF THE BISMARCK EVENT CENTER AUTHORITY BOARD

4/1/2026 - MINUTES

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The Bismarck Event Center Authority Board met in the Tom Baker meeting room on April 1, 2026, at 11:00 AM. Members present included Mike Gardner, Jason Tomanek, Chad Wachter, Jennifer Wilson and Mayor Mike Schmitz. Member Sheri Grossman attended the meeting via Teams. Member Joel Kostelecky was absent.

2. [Public Comment](#)

No public comment was received.

3. Consider Approval of Minutes

Member Wachter moved to approve the minutes as presented and Member Tomanek seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

4. Receive Event Center Financial Report

Eric Lund, Acting Finance Director, presented a summary of all facilities' financial statements through March 31, 2026.

- [Financial Statements](#)

Amanda Yellow, Acting Event Center Director, presented the total ticket sales for events at the Event Center for the first three months of 2026.

- [Ticket Sales](#)

Member Wachter asked for the financial reports to show that the event revenue figures match the income statement or can be easily reconciled and suggested adding a column for outstanding receivables or adjustments.

Acting Finance Director Lund explained that the discrepancies in the current report are largely due to timing, especially because the month-end process had not been completed. Once the month-end is complete, the report will include show settlements, and the revenue recognition adjustments will bring the numbers into alignment.

Member Grossman moved to approve the financial statements and Member Wilson

seconded.

Member Gardner asked for the motion to be amended to receive financials rather than approve financials.

Member Grossman amended her motion to receive the financial statements as presented and Member Wilson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

#### 5. Mission Statement and Policy Discussion

Member Tomanek presented options of possible Mission Statements for the Board to review. The Board will review the options and bring back for discussion at the regular meeting in May.

#### 6. Other Business

Mayor Schmitz brought forward concerns received by catering companies that the Board received and clarified that the planned kitchen improvements will be funded by Oak View Group, and not the City. Mayor Schmitz invited the catering representatives to share their concerns.

- Michelle Kauffman, with 1603 Main Events / The Paddle Trap, shared that the caterers received mixed and possibly inaccurate information from Oak View Group at the meeting they held the prior week. Ms. Kauffman was concerned that they were told outside catering would no longer be needed at the Event Center once the kitchen is completed and suggested a hybrid option which would allow outside caterers to provide services at the Event Center. Ms. Kauffman emphasized the unique services that local caterers provide and stressed that there would be a negative impact on local businesses if the Event Center used in-house catering exclusively.
- Tom Bushaw, with Taco Del Mar, supported the idea of a hybrid catering model which would allow outside catering alongside the new kitchen. Mr. Bushaw raised concern about the 17% fee charged to caterers, noting that it causes loss of business, and asked how it would work moving forward. Mr. Bushaw emphasized the value that local businesses bring to community events.
- Heather Martin, with Lady J's Catering, expressed concerns about mixed messaging from Oak View Group. Ms. Martin shared that exclusive in-house catering would significantly hurt local catering businesses and that the in-house catering would put the local caterers in competition with the City. Ms. Martin also noted that local caterers are largely self-sufficient by providing their own equipment and questioned Oak View Group's ability to staff large events without the local support networks that local caterers have.
- Clinton Goehring, with Ramada Bismarck, shared that his business caters 6–12 events annually and could lose 15–20% of revenue if excluded from the Event Center.

Amanda Yellow, Event Center Acting Director, shared that the percentage fee charged to caterers helps offset labor and garbage costs incurred by the Event Center when outside caterers are used.

Administrator Tomanek shared that he has had discussions with the Oak View Group's general manager and said that he is open to a hybrid model for catering. Administrator Tomanek explained that the kitchen design is not finalized, which leaves room for adjustments. Administrator Tomanek said that he is supportive of local businesses and will continue the discussion in future decisions.

Member Wachter expressed support for trying to create a hybrid model that includes local caterers.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.