

METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION-RECREATION COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO 99-45

Authorizing issuance of a Request for Proposals for non-exclusive automated ticketing services for the Portland Center for the Performing Arts (PCPA), Civic Stadium, Oregon Convention Center (OCC) and the Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center (EXPO).

The Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission finds:

1. That the current Ticketing Services Agreements for all MERC managed facilities expire December 31, 1999, with no renewal options available.
2. The Commission requires a ticketing services system in addition to facility box offices to provide public access to Commission events and to provide licensees with superior ticket sales services.
3. The Commission has appointed a MERC Ticketing Committee to consider ticketing options and make recommendations to the Commission as to future ticketing services needs at all MERC managed facilities.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

1. That the General Manager, in consultation with legal counsel and the Commission's Ticketing Committee, is authorized to develop and issue a Request for Proposals for non-exclusive automated ticketing services for all MERC managed facilities; and
2. That the Commission Chair shall appoint a selection committee to review responsive proposals and to recommend selection of the best qualified proposers; and
3. That the final selection of contractors and approval of contracts for Ticketing Services shall be by action of the Commission.

Passed by the Commission on October 20, 1999.




Chair



Secretary-Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: 
Kathleen Pool, Sr. Assistant Counsel

MERC Staff Report

Agenda Item/Issue: MERC Commission to authorize MERC staff to issue a Request for Proposals for non-exclusive automated ticketing services at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, Civic Stadium, the Oregon Convention Center and the Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center.

Resolution No.: 99-45

Presented By: Jeffrey A. Blosser

Date: October 20, 1999

Background and Analysis: In 1990, MERC entered into non-exclusive agreements with Ticketmaster and FASTIXX to provide the PCPA and Civic Stadium with the necessary equipment and outlets to conduct the process of automated ticket sales. At the same time, the OCC entered into a similar exclusive agreement with FASTIXX only. In 1995, these agreements (with minor changes) were renewed for another three years with a two-year option. The current agreements expire on December 31, 1999.

The MERC Commission appointed the MERC Ticketing Committee, consisting of Commissions Middleton and Rice, MERC Facility Directors and Manager, and Ticket Services Managers. This Committee has explored ways of increasing the amount of income extracted from the sale of tickets for MERC and non-MERC events. The Committee has met with representatives from both of the existing Ticket Agents (FASTIXX and Ticketmaster). These meetings were information sharing in nature with the representatives having the opportunity to give their feedback on proposed changes to the Agreements and provide input on other ideas for the Committee to consider. The Committee consensus at this time is to pursue a Request for Proposals process to solicit proposals for MERC managed facilities' ticketing services needs.

Fiscal Impact: With changes in the market place as well as within the ticketing industry, the Committee has found that with the existing agreements, MERC is not receiving their "fair share" of income being received from the sale of tickets to our facilities. With the proposed changes in the proposed Request for Proposals, MERC will see an increase in the amount of income derived from ticket sales without an increase in costs associated with these sales.

Recommendation: The Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission authorizes staff to issue a Request for Proposals pursuant to MERC Commission policies and procedures, for non-exclusive agreements to provide MERC-managed facilities with automated ticketing capabilities.