

# Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 11:00am

Jasper Boardroom ~ Savannah Convention Center

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**Members present:** Joe Marinelli, Martin Miller, Jeanne Seaver, Mark Smith, Mark Spadoni, Trip Tollison, Ansley Williams **Members absent:** Pat Farrell, Ben Polote Jr., Ruth Quattlebaum Edwards. Lorri Smith **Also present:** Paul Threlkeld, Jeff Hewitt, Katie Nussbaum, Garry Swearingen (Clark Construction), Paul Hansen, Lee Hughes, Michael Owens and SITCC staff: Sherrie Spinks, Gail Terrell, Stephen Hall, Ronnie Hickman, Angela Daniels, Judy Johnson, Jamie Parks, Naomi DeLoach, Tara Nobles

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 11:02am.

Chairman Smith asked for approval of the January minutes and Treasurer's report. Motion made by Mr. Tollison; seconded by Mr. Williams and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Counsel Report. Mr. Threlkeld stated no report.

External Affairs: Mr. Lee provided a status update on the lodging tax renewal from the municipalities, Chatham Area Transit update with regards to the development of an additional dock at West end of River Street and an Atlanta Capitol Hill update. Mr. Lee commented on Chairman Smith and Ms. Spinks discussion with the House Budget Committee regarding the expansion.

Financial Reports. Mr. Hall reported an unfavorable variance to Center budget for January, and year-end currently forecasted to be favorable to budget; Mr. Hall then continued with the Authority financials citing an unfavorable variance for January; and year-end currently forecasted to be favorable to budget. Mr. Hall commented on there being no January Water Ferry expenditures.

Sales and Marketing Report. Ms. Daniels commented on the Sales report for January in addition to January contracts and the Pace report. Ms. Daniels highlighted the recent Sales trip to Washington DC with Visit Savannah. Mr. Marinelli commented on a successful meeting with the National Association of Counties. Ms. Daniels also reviewed the recently held Art Showcase at the facility in addition to the production report.

Operations Report. Mr. Hickman provided the Operations Report which included team highlights and review of capital projects. Mr. Hickman reviewed the need for repairs to the Ballroom escalator handrails not to exceed a cost of \$20,000. Motion made by Mr. Spadoni; seconded by Mr. Miller; brief discussion ensued followed by approval by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Hickman also introduced and commended Public Safety Officer, Naomi DeLoach for her role in the performance of CPR/AED to an attendee during a recent event.

Food and Beverage Report. Mr. Parks reviewed January financials and highlighted an "A" food service inspection score recently held at the facility. Mr. Parks also presented the new Tea Program which is locally sourced and sustainable. Mr. Parks reviewed the need for additional food service carts, pitchers and trays not to exceed a cost of \$100,000. Motion made by Mr. Spadoni; seconded by Mr. Williams; brief discussion ensued followed by approval by unanimous voice vote.

General Manager's Report. Ms. Spinks again reviewed the north expansion signage options to which the board members decided on both the name of the top of the building and the name 'Savannah' on the

windows of the expanded concourse. Motion by Mr. Miller; seconded by Mr. Tollison and approved by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Spinks introduced Mr. Garry Swearingen from Clark Construction who provided a pre-construction update.

Chairman Report. Chairman Smith commented on continuous dialog being held with regards to the Convention Center Hotel project. To Ms. Seaver's question with regards to an update on a fire station being built on Hutchinson Island, Mr. Spadoni commented that the city has plans to incorporate a fire station potentially in 2022-2023.

Chairman Smith asked for any other business; hearing none. Chairman Smith then adjourned the meeting at 12:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Lorri Smith, Secretary-Treasurer