

# Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

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

Via onsite Meeting Rooms 105/106 and Teleconference (Zoom Meeting) ~ Savannah Convention Center

---

**Members present:** Ruth Quattlebaum Edwards, Pat Farrell, Martin Miller, Ben Polote Jr., Lorri Smith (via zoom), Jeanne Seaver, Mark Smith, Mark Spadoni, Trip Tollison, Ansley Williams **Members absent:** Joe Marinelli **Also present:** Paul Threlkeld, Marc Friday, Lee Hughes, Jeff Hewitt, Michael Owens and SCC staff: Sherrie Spinks, Gail Terrell, Stephen Hall, Ronnie Hickman, Angela Daniels, Judy Johnson and Jamie Parks

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 11:06am. Mr. Hall confirmed board member Lorri Smith on the teleconference. Additional teleconference attendees included Marc Friday, Jeff Hewitt and Judy Johnson.

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

Counsel Report. Mr. Threlkeld stated no report at this time.

External Affairs. Mr. Hughes commented on the well-received thank you newspaper ad to Gov. Kemp and the General Assembly which was posted in the Savannah Morning News, Atlanta-Journal Constitution and Savannah Tribune. Mr. Owens provided an update on the Tourism Leadership Council (TLC) marketing efforts.

Financial Report. Mr. Hall reported a favorable variance to Center budget for July, and year-end currently favorable to budget. Mr. Hall reported an unfavorable variance to the Authority budget for July and year-end currently favorable to budget. Mr. Hall also commented on the hotel/motel taxes being higher than expected.

Sales and Marketing Report. Ms. Daniels presented pictures of July events with social distancing measures. Ms. Daniels also provided a video testimonial from the Executive Director of Chiefs of Police. Ms. Daniels continued her report with a list of events through December 2020. Ms. Daniels then reviewed the pace report. Ms. Daniels and Mr. Jeff Hewitt commented on the success of the virtual trade show with American Society of Association Executives.

Operations Report. Mr. Hickman provided the Operations Report which included team highlights in addition to an update of capital projects. Mr. Hickman also provided an update on the current expansion-utility relocation and cooling tower projects. Mr. Hickman provided a demonstration of the electrostatic hand held sprayer to disinfect various facility areas and equipment.

Food and Beverage Report. Mr. Parks provided a review of the July events which required food service in addition to the revenue outcome.


General Manager's Report. Ms. Spinks provided a brief overview for the resolution to sell bonds to which a motion was made by Mr. Tollison; seconded by Mr. Spadoni and approved by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Spinks and Mr. Farrell provided positive comments on the newly elected Executive Director of Chatham Area Transit, Ms. Bacarra Mauldin. Ms. Spinks noted that the Savannah Convention Center is currently ranked 158<sup>th</sup> of US facilities based on exhibit hall size per Trade Show Executive magazine. Once our expansion is completed we will be tied with several over facilities at the 70-74<sup>th</sup> largest facilities based on exhibit hall sq. footage. Ms. Spinks commented on the upcoming deadline of 9/1/2020 to

provide next year's budget request for the expansion to the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB). Ms. Spinks also provided an update to the expansion timeline.

Chairman's Report. Mr. Smith commented on communications with Songy Highroads with regards to the hotel expansion project. Mr. Smith also commented on the Thomas and Hutton proposal to update the design to complete the Slip 3 Riverwalk. Motion by Mr. Williams; seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Smith requested Ms. Quattlebaum Edwards to present the decision of the SGCCA nominating committee with regards to appointing the officers to the board. Ms. Quattlebaum Edwards provided a motion that the existing officers remain in their positions: Mr. Mark Smith, Chairman, Mr. Joe Marinelli, Vice-Chairman and Ms. Lorri Smith, Secretary/Treasurer. Seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Smith asked for any other business; hearing none then adjourned the meeting at 11:45am.

Respectfully Submitted,



---

Lorri Smith, Secretary-Treasurer