

Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 11:00am

Via onsite Jasper Boardroom and teleconference ~ Savannah Convention Center

Members present: Bert Brantley, Ruth Quattlebaum Edwards, Pat Farrell, Joe Marinelli (via Zoom), Ben Polote Jr., Anne Scheer, Mark Smith, Trip Tollison, Ansley Williams **Members absent:** Martin Miller, Pritpal Singh **Also present:** Paul Threlkeld, Mark Blackmon (Clark Construction), Frank Poe, GWCCA (via Zoom), Lee Hughes (Hughes Public Affairs), Yong Choe (YC Consulting-via Zoom), Jeff Hewitt, Michael Owens (Tourism Leadership Council), Patricia Perry (Tourism Leadership Council), Adam Van Brimmer (Atlanta Journal Constitution), Evan Lasseter (Savannah Morning News), and SCC staff: Ronnie Hickman, Stephen Hall, Angela Daniels, Jamie Parks, Gail Terrell and Holly Jenkins

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 11:00am.

Chairman Smith asked for approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's report. Motion made by Mr. Polote Jr., seconded by Ms. Quattlebaum Edwards and approved by unanimous voice vote.

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

External Affairs Report. Mr. Choe commented on potential news of federal funding assistance for the Riverwalk in December. Mr. Hughes commented on the recent election in Savannah in which all incumbents were re-elected. Mr. Hughes also stated that an upcoming special session is scheduled on November 29 at the legislature level.

Financial Report. Mr. Hall reported a favorable month for October and a favorable year-end for the facility. Mr. Hall then provided an overview of upcoming negative financial impact due to delays in the construction completion date now pushed back to May 2024. Mr. Tollison requested a report that detailed hotel liability cost. Vice-Chairman Marinelli commented on the negative impact the construction delay will have on 4 city-wide events contracted in May and June. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hall then continued to report a favorable variance to the Authority budget for the month of October and favorable year-end to the Authority's budget.

Sales and Marketing Report. Ms. Daniels reviewed the Sales report which included a list of contracts obtained for the month of October 2023 and then continued with the Pace report, October production and upcoming calendars.

Operations Report. Mr. Hickman provided the Operations Report which included team highlights, Riverwalk repair with a completion date of January/February as well as capital project updates. Mr. Hickman reviewed the details of the request for an additional \$100k in capital funding for chiller motor repair. Motion to approve additional capital funding of \$100,000 for chiller motor repairs made by Mr. Farrell; seconded by Mr. Polote Jr., and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Food & Beverage Report. Mr. Parks reviewed the October F&B financials and provided event highlights.

General Manager's Report. Interim General Manager, Stephen Hall informed the board members that the Eggs and Issues Legislative breakfast has been rescheduled to December 14, 2023, at the Marriott Riverfront Hotel. Renderings of the completed Water Ferry landing presented. Mr. Hall introduced Mark Blackmon, VP of Clark Construction, who provided a construction update. Discussion ensued regarding the delayed material completion date. Mr. Blackmon recommended frequent and regular meetings to be held with the Fire Marshall, Architects, GSFIC and Clark Construction to strategize a firm completion date.

Chairman's Report. Ms. Quattlebaum-Edwards presented the nominating committee's recommendation of Executive Board Members for FY 2024 to be Mark Smith, Chairman; Joe Marinelli, Vice-Chairman; Bert Brantley, Secretary-Treasurer. Motion by Mr. Williams to maintain the officers as presented by the nominating committee; seconded by Mr. Farrell and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Smith requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss real estate. Motion by Ms. Quattlebaum Edwards; seconded by Mr. Ben Polote Jr. and approved by unanimous voice vote. Executive Session convened at 12:00pm and ended at 12:30pm. Regular board meeting session reconvened at 12:31pm.

Chairman Smith asked for any other business; hearing none, then adjourned the meeting at 12:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bert Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer