

# Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
**Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 11:00am**

Via onsite Jasper Boardroom and teleconference ~ Savannah Convention Center

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**Members present:** Bert Brantley (via Zoom), Ruth Quattlebaum Edwards, Pat Farrell, Joe Marinelli, Martin Miller, Ben Polote Jr., Anne Scheer, Pritpal Singh (via Zoom), Mark Smith, Trip Tollison, Ansley Williams **Members absent:** n/a **Also present:** Paul Threlkeld, Frank Poe, GWCCA (via Zoom), Lee Hughes (Hughes Public Affairs – via Zoom), Jeff Hewitt, Michael Owens (Tourism Leadership Council), Adam Van Brimmer (Atlanta Journal Constitution), Evan Lasseter (Savannah Morning News), Gerald Pilgrim (GSFIC), Marty Smith (GSFIC), and SCC staff: Kelvin Moore (via Zoom), Jen LeMaster (GWCC), 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. Marinelli seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Smith introduced Georgia World Congress Center Authority's, Chief Administrative Officer, Jen LeMaster to the board members. Ms. LeMaster was recently appointed as Contract Administrator between the Georgia World Congress Center and the Savannah Convention Center.

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

External Affairs Report. Mr. Hughes commented on the confirmation of the Governor's budget to be determined tomorrow and also provided an update on specific legislative actions in Washington, DC as applicable to the Authority.

Financial Report. Ms. Jenkins reported a favorable month for December and a favorable year-end for the facility. Ms. Jenkins then continued to report a favorable variance to the Authority budget for the month of December 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 December 2023 and then continued with the Pace report, December production and upcoming calendars.

Operations Report. Mr. Hickman provided the Operations Report which included team highlights and capital project updates. To Vice-Chairman Marinelli's question regarding the status of replacing the Hutchinson Island signage at the bottom of the Talmadge bridge, Mr. Hickman replied that the signage is under review with the GA Department of Transportation.

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

General Manager's Report. Interim General Manager, Stephen Hall reminded the board members of the upcoming Savannah-Chatham Day in Atlanta on January 31-February 1, 2024.

Chairman's Report. Chairman Smith commented on the importance of moving to contract stage no later than March 2024 as it pertains to the convention center hotel project. Attorney Threlkeld voiced no concerns after review of the RFP and LOI. Discussion ensued in response to Mr. Singh's question regarding the fee structure to which detailed clarification and comments were provided by GWCCA Executive Director, Frank Poe, Chairman Smith and Attorney Threlkeld. Motion by Mr. Farrell to move forward with the LOI; seconded by Mr. Williams and approved with unanimous voice vote. Chairman

Smith commented on extending the GWCCA Management Agreement contract an additional two years through June 2028. Motion by Mr. Tollison; seconded by Ms. Quattlebaum Edwards and approve with unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Smith requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. Motion by Ms. Scheer; seconded by Mr. Williams. and approved by unanimous voice vote. Executive Session convened at 11:30pm and ended at 12:29pm. Regular board meeting session reconvened at 12:29pm.

Chairman Smith asked for any other business; hearing none, then adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Bert Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer