

Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 11:00am

Via onsite Jasper Boardroom and teleconference ~ Savannah Convention Center

Members present: Bert Brantley, Pat Farrell, Joe Marinelli, Martin Miller, Ben Polote Jr., Anne Scheer (via Zoom), Mark Smith, Ansley Williams(via Zoom) **Members absent:** Ruth Quattlebaum Edwards, Pritpal Singh, Trip Tollison **Also present:** Paul Threlkeld, Frank Poe(Consultant-via Zoom), Kevin Duvall (GWCCA), Yong Choe (YC Consulting-via zoom), Bobby Knowles (Songy Highroads-via Zoom), Jeff Hewitt, Michael Garcia (Matthews Southwest-via Zoom), Todd Nocerini (Songy Highroads-via Zoom), Lee Hughes (Hughes Public Affairs-via Zoom), Yong Choe (YC Consulting-via Zoom), Michael Owens (TLC), Evan Lassetter (Savannah Morning News), Hamp Murphy(TLC), Jeff Bleam, and SCC staff: Kelvin Moore, Ronnie Hickman, Angela Daniels, Holly Jenkins, Jamie Parks, Jackie Mitchell, Al Rojas and Gail Terrell.

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 11:01am.

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

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

External Affairs Report. Mr. Choe informed the board that the \$2.5 million dollars appropriated last year has been secured. The funding request for this year will be submitted in late March/early April with a potential consideration to request funding via a Homeland Security Bill versus the Transportation Bill. Mr. Hughes commented on SCC General Manager, Kelvin Moore's presentation to the Economic Development Committee at the State Capitol. Mr. Hughes further stated that there would be no funding request from the Governor this year.

Financial Report. Ms. Jenkins reported an unfavorable net income, unfavorable direct expenses and favorable indirect expenses for January to the Convention Center. Ms. Jenkins then continued to report a favorable income and expenses to the Authority budget. Ms. Jenkins informed the board that the completed State Audit had no findings.

Hotel Development Report. Mr. Nocerini reported an additional 38 keys, which increases the room count to four hundred forty-two. Mr. Nocerini also stated that the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) is currently pushed back to March 10 due to the additional rooms. Mr. Nocerini commented on the term sheet being 90% complete and the \$10 million dollar line of credit approved. To Vice-Chairman Marinelli's question regarding any impact on recent tariffs to the timeline, Mr. Nocerini replied that there will be some increased tariffs to be expected on the FF&E and a minor impact to steel since most of the building will be concrete. To Chairman Smith's question with regards to the strength of the dollar versus the impact of tariffs, Mr. Nocerini replied that he will research. Mr. Nocerini further stated the Windmill Study of the structural components is expected to be completed in early March. To Chairman Smith's comment regarding the optimization study's outcome provided the basis of the extra floor being needed, Mr. Nocerini affirmed.

Operations Report. Mr. Hickman provided maintenance and capital updates. Mr. Hickman then reviewed an Elevator Capital request to install a door lock monitoring system at the elevator closest to the Jasper Boardroom at a cost of \$15,288.23. Motion made by Mr. Farrell; seconded by Mr. Polote Jr. and approved by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Hickman also stated the SCC Expansion Certificate of Occupancy was received on February 6, 2025.

General Manager's Report. Mr. Moore provided an update on his recent visit to the State Capital and the upcoming SCC Expansion Opening Weekend starting with a Media Review Tour on Friday February 14, 2025 with NIKE Savannah Showdown Volleyball beginning Saturday through Monday. To Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Brantley's question regarding SCC's retail outlets, Mr. Parks replied that multiple retail outlets in addition to concession stands will be open. Mr. Moore stated that the Parking fees began last weekend and is fully operational. President/CEO of Tourism Leadership Council (TLC), Michael Owens commented on the upcoming TLC dinner/awards next week which is the largest annual dinner that acknowledges the local hospitality industry.

Chairman Report. Chairman Smith requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss potential real estate. Motion by Mr. Polote Jr.; seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by unanimous voice vote. Executive Session convened at 11:41am and ended at 12:05 pm with a motion by Mr. Miller; seconded by Mr. Polote Jr. and approved with unanimous voice vote. Regular board meeting session reconvened at 12:05 pm.

Chairman Smith asked for any other business; hearing none, then adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bert Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer