

# Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
**Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 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, Ansley Williams **Members absent:** Ben Polote Jr., Anne Scheer, Pritpal Singh, Mark Smith, Trip Tollison **Also present:** Paul Threlkeld(via Zoom), Frank Poe (Consultant), Stephen Hall (Consultant-via Zoom), Kevin Duvall (GWCCA), Yong Choe (YC Consulting-via zoom), Bobby Knowles (Songy Highroads-via Zoom), Michael Garcia (Matthews Southwest-via Zoom), Todd Nocerini (Songy Highroads-via Zoom), Franklin Jones (Greenberg Traurig LLP), Jon Pannell(Gray Pannell Woodward LLP-via Zoom), Kellie Linder (Visit Savannah), David Farrant, Evan Lasseter (Savannah Morning News) and SCC staff: Kelvin Moore, Ronnie Hickman, Holly Jenkins, Jamie Parks, Jackie Mitchell, Al Rojas, Myesha Jones, Gail Terrell and Marc McDuffie.

In Chairman's absence due to travel, Vice-Chairman Marinelli convened the meeting at 11:08am.

Vice-Chairman Marinelli introduced Director of Business Development, David Farrant of MAS.

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

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

External Affairs Report. Mr. Choe commented on the recent financial submissions entered with Senator Warnock and Senator Ossoff totaling \$4.2 million. Riverwalk and infrastructure improvements also requested.

Financial Report. Ms. Jenkins reported a favorable month for April and forecasted favorability at year end. Ms. Jenkins then continued to report unfavorable operating income for the authority for the month of April and forecasted to exceed budget at fiscal-year end for the Authority's budget.

Vice-Chairman Marinelli commented on 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2025 Hotel/Motel tax being the highest to date.

Mr. Rojas presented the FY '26 Budget Packet Approval for approval. Mr. Rojas noted no changes to SCC FY '26 Operating Budget, SGCCA FY '26 Budget and one adjustment to the FY '26 Capital Plan to add air circulation to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor terrace. Motion to approve the FY '26 Budget made by Mr. Williams; seconded by Mr. Farrell and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Hotel Development Report. Mr. Nocerini and Mr. Garcia provided a brief design and development update noting that the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) is on budget and documents to be finalized within the next 2 weeks. Also noted was the rendering of the Marketing packet expected by August. Mr. Poe then provided a market update for the municipal bond market.

Mr. Rojas reviewed the details of the S&P Engagement letter for approval by the board. Motion made by Ms. Quattlebaum Edwards; seconded by Mr. Williams and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Rojas continued with the details of the Trustee Bank action item for the board members. Motion made by Mr. Miller; seconded by Mr. Williams and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Vice-Chairman Marinelli then reviewed the amended consultant agreement for Mr. Poe for board approval. Motion made by Mr. Williams; seconded by Mr. Farrell and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Operations Update. Mr. Hickman provided maintenance and capital updates to include Bulkhead repair, Chatham Ballroom dimming system, AV upgrade and the relocation of the transformers onsite. Mr. Hickman then reviewed the Chiller 1 Reference Transformer for board approval. Motion made by Mr. Farrell; seconded by Mr. Williams and approved by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Hickman continued with review of Thunderbolt Consultants for board approval. Motion by Mr. Farrell; seconded by Mr. Ansley and approved with unanimous voice vote.

Vice-Chairman Marinelli expressed gratitude to the SCC team for a job well done at the recent expansion ribbon cutting celebration.

General Manager's Report. Mr. Moore expressed gratitude to the SCC team. Mr. Moore then reviewed highlights of the ribbon cutting celebration success and presented a video of the ribbon cutting event. Mr. Moore continued with a group picture of the Convention Trade Media participants from the Familiarization (FAM) tour in front of SCC on the day of the ribbon cutting, April 30, 2025. Vice-Chairman Marinelli provided highlights from the FAM tour visit. Mr. Moore concluded with the announcement of Fredia Brady as the new Senior Director of Sales and Marketing for SCC starting in mid-June.

Vice-Chairman asked for any other business; hearing none, then adjourned the meeting at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Bert Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer