

Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 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, Pritpal Singh, Mark Smith, Trip Tollison, Ruth Quattlebaum, Ansley Williams **Members absent:** N/A. Also present: Paul Threlkeld (Oliver Maner LLP), Ben Johnson (Oliver Maner LLP), Frank Poe (Consultant-via zoom), Lee Hughes (via zoom), Yong Choe (YC Consulting-via zoom), Michael Garcia (via zoom), Bobby Knowles (via zoom), Maggie Harney (via zoom), Kevin Duvall (GWCCA), Andrew Brailsford (Iron and Oak) and SCC staff: Kelvin Moore, Ronnie Hickman, Jackie Mitchell, Al Rojas, Fredia Brady, Gail Terrell and Galen MacDonald.

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 11:00 am.

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

Counsel Report. Mr. Threlkeld introduced newly appointed SGCCA Hotel Legal Counsel, Ben Johnson, from the Oliver Maner team to the board.

External Affairs Report. Mr. Hughes stated that Governor Kemp has signed the supplemental budget. Mr. Hughes also commented on the Chatham Area Transit (CAT) 'Memorandum of Agreement' which will allow SGCCA to manage the \$1.5 million construction of the additional water ferry stop at the west end of River Street after certain conditions and milestones are met by CAT.

Mr. Choe commented that the \$1.5 million dollar request to help fund the replacement of the two escalators has been submitted by Senators Warnock, Ossoff and Congressman Carter. Mr. Choe also stated that the award letter for the \$4.2 million dollars for the riverwalk and infrastructure improvements has been received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Financial Report. In Ms. Jenkins' absence, Mr. Rojas presented the financial report for the month of April. Mr. Rojas reported a favorable month for April and favorable-year end for the facility. Mr. Rojas then continued to report a favorable variance to the Authority budget for the month of April and favorable year-end to Authority budget. To Mr. Singh's question with regard to any questions being received from meeting planners about F&B minimums, Iron and Oak, General Manager, Andrew Brailsford, replied that there are no questions or concerns about the minimums. Mr. Rojas then commented on the FY27 Budget workshop held in May. Mr. Smith commented on the budget being reviewed with no additional action needed or cited by the budget committee. Motion by Mr. Marinelli to approve the FY 27 Operating and Capital Budget; seconded by Mr. Williams and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Hotel Development Update. Mr. Knowles provided a construction update which include a potential 'topping out' in late November 2026. Mr. Knowles also stated that the hotel project continues to be on schedule and on budget. Mr. Poe shared an update on Hilton Worldwide sales effort with regards to 34 leads to date and approximately 37k room nights being held between 2028 – 2032. Mr. Poe also commented that Hilton's Director of Sales position is currently being vetted with a goal of June 2026 to be in place at SCC. Mr. Marinelli highlighted the national booking event in 2032. To Mr. Smith's question about the original 'topping off' for the hotel was scheduled to be in November 2026; Mr. Knowles affirmed that was the timeframe. To Mr. Marinelli's question about increased rental booking pace in FY26; Ms. Brady replied that the national and city-wide events are spending more than the contracted F&B minimums and historically the months of January through May have higher booking pace numbers. Mr. Poe reviewed Hilton's Chef Consulting Agreement with The Grey restaurant. Motion by Mr. Polote Jr. to move forward with the consulting agreement; seconded by Ms. Quattlebaum and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Facility Operations Update. Mr. Hickman introduced SCC's newly hired Project Manager, Galen MacDonald. Mr. Hickman then reviewed Action Items for Capital Projects (overage) in the amount of \$183,149 as it pertains to the Exhibit Hall Air Walls, Meeting Rooms VAV Box Replacement and Office Furniture. Mr. Hickman stated the overage cost would be from capital funds savings and not a new capital expense. Motion by Mr. Tollison to approve the capital projects (overage); seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by unanimous voice vote.

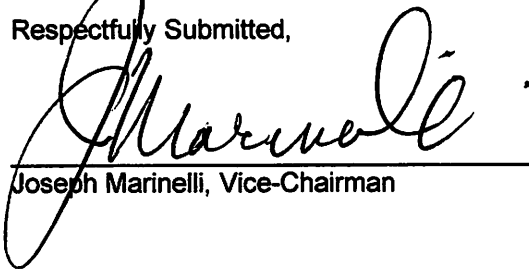
General Manager Report. Mr. Moore reviewed the Marshalling Yard Lease Agreement with Georgia Ports Authority. Motion by Mr. Williams to move forward with the Marshalling Yard Agreement; seconded by Mr. Marinelli and approved by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Smith commented on a potential location for the NS Savannah in Slip 3. Mr. Moore then continued with review of the YC Consulting Agreement renewal for Yong Choe. Motion by Mr. Williams to renew the agreement; seconded by Mr. Singh. Brief discussion was held and then approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Brantley then reviewed the State of GA DNR Funding Agreement to fund another water ferry dock on River Street which will also include a Stakeholder Steering Committee.

Chairman Report. Mr. Smith commented on the June Board meeting to be held June 10, 2026, at 11:00am.

Mr. Smith asked for any other business; hearing none, then adjourned the meeting at 11:53am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joseph Marinelli, Vice-Chairman