

THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026, AT 9:00 AM

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority (hereinafter referred to as “Authority”, the “CCA” or the “Board”) was held on April 7, 2026. The meeting was held in the McCarvill Boardroom, second floor, Rhode Island Convention Center, pursuant to notice, at the Rhode Island Convention Center, One Sabin Street, Providence, RI 02903 and the AMP, One LaSalle Square, Providence, RI 02903.

Board members in attendance were Chairman Ernest Almonte, Vice Chair George Nee, Jeff Hirsh, Paul MacDonald, Peter Mancini, Oscar Vargas, Jennifer Goodrich Coia, Esq., Carol Lombardi and Sarah Bratko, Esq. Board members unable to attend were Dale Venturini and Diony Garcia, Esq.

Others attending were Daniel McConaghy, Dana Peltier, Melissa O’Connor and Patricia Verrecchia, RI Convention Center Authority; Lawrence Lepore, Cheryl Cohen, Chris Spolidoro, Becca Ponder, Casey Hoover, Tim Sullivan, RI Convention Center and AMP; Kristen Adamo, PWCVB; Alan Chile, Dan Schwartz, Mike Gravison, Judy Ferreira and Sheamus Fitzgerald, PFM/The Vets; Hank Abate, OVG; Michael Crawley, Citrin Cooperman; Bruce Leach, Legal Counsel.

1. Call to Order – Chairman Almonte called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM
2. Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 9:00 AM
3. Consent Calendar Items
 - a. Approval of the minutes of the March Board Meeting
 - b. Approval of the Marketing Committee Report
 - c. Approval of the Finance Committee Report
 - d. Approval of the Joint Facilities and Finance Committee Report

Mr. Almonte requested a motion for the Consent Calendar Items. Upon a motion from Mr. Nee, which was seconded by Mr. MacDonald, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the consent calendar items

4. Marketing Committee Report
 - a. FIFA World Cup update – Kristen Adamo

Ms. Adamo reviewed updates for FIFA World Cup. World Cup is scheduled to start on June 13 – July 9 with a total of 7 matches at Gillette Stadium. Ocean State 26 is raising money to fund events across the state. City of Providence is close to having a Fan Zone sanctioned by FIFA which will have 39 days of activities near the train station. Marketing hotels are not close to where they should be, which is also happening in Boston and nationwide. Tourism Improvement District is talking about things going on in Providence throughout the summer to help boost excitement. There have been transportation problems with the trains being pulled from Providence due to some issues with Boston 26. Boston 26 feels they should receive \$1 million from us for their efforts. Due to this ongoing issue, we will be working with Ocean State 26. We were given \$250k from the RI Sports Commission to help figure out transportation. We are close to an agreement with Boston 26 which will fund the stadium express. We are looking to get 1 location, the Rhode Island Convention Center which will serve as the hub to take people to the stadium. We can’t charter our own buses because both FIFA and Boston 26 control all access into the stadium. We think we have reached an agreement for the stadium express allowing access to 26 buses every game day. We are also working with RIPTA for bus service from hotels in Warwick to RICC.

Ticket cost for the stadium express is \$98. To help save money we are also checking to see if we can take people from RICC to Attleboro. From there they can take a train or bus. Mr. Nee asked how much money Rhode Island has raised. Chairman Almonte stated that we raised \$700k. Mr. Hirsh took a moment to thank Ms. Adamo and her team for all the hard work they are doing. It's not easy dealing with FIFA. Hotels in Boston are also upset because they have put aside rooms that have not been booked. It's too late to get the business now. Airbnb is also pushing hard to get people to use their homes. Ms. Adamo mentioned that RI is not getting any Federal funding. So far, it's going to MA. Mr. Hirsh also noted that the city wants people, but city services have not been good for the merchants. If a restaurant or bar puts a TV outside and shows the matches they must pay a fee to FIFA for the TV license. It makes it almost not worth expanding operations for these matches. Mr. Nee asked how ticket sales were doing. Ms. Adamo noted they are okay. Tickets are expensive, \$400 being the lowest, and parking at the stadium is \$200 approximately. Ms. Adamo asked the board for assistance dealing with South County and Blackstone Valley. The CVB gets a small portion of statewide hotel taxes. South County and Blackstone Valley feel they should get the money and give to Commerce, in hopes that they will distribute to tourism accordingly. This is something that happens every year. They are hosting a luncheon inviting business leaders, legislators and senior officials. The only two regions hosting this luncheon are South County and Blackstone Valley. Block Island and Providence were not invited. Ms. Adamo noted that Mr. McConaghy is attending the hearing on Thursday, April 9th to testify in opposition to the House bill. Ms. Adamo asked the board to review the bill and offer their support in opposition. Mr. Almonte asked Ms. Adamo to give the board talking points.

5. Finance Committee Report – Chair Jeff Hirsh
a. Providence College contract renewal update

Mr. McConaghy reviewed the Providence College contract renewal noting discussions were paused during the season. PC has been focused on hiring a new coach which was done on March 22nd. Please see attached handout for more details. Mr. McConaghy began by noting the discussions with PC have been amicable and productive. He began the update by noting they are looking for a 5-year renewal with 2 additional seasons. They are concerned with the future state of NCAA/Big East. They agreed to a 2% share of concessions revenue with Providence Sportservice to go towards the NIL program. They would have use of The Exchange for two events annually for fundraising events. \$1 per transaction at the cash bar would go towards the NIL program during these two events. Authority would pay PC for each ticket in the 16 suites at \$20 per ticket. Mr. McConaghy reviewed the capital project agreement with PC noting we have already completed the projectors for fan experience. New floors have been budgeted along with ticket turnstiles. We rejected their request for a new scoreboard and dehumidification system. The scoreboard is only 7-8 years old and there is no moisture on the floors. We agreed to add \$3 per car on the night of all games which will go toward NIL program. The total funds that NIL will receive should be close to \$40k.

6. Joint Facilities & Finance Committee report
a. Review and consideration of Summer 2026 work – Daniel McConaghy

Mr. McConaghy reviewed the (6) upcoming projects which were approved by the board in the joint Facilities and Operations meeting. Carpet replacement totaling \$650k at the AMP lobby, ramp and restaurant and RICC pre-function areas and bridge. Locker rooms 2 & 3 totaling \$400k for upgraded lockers, flooring and connectivity. Painting at AMP includes concourse bathrooms, concession areas and suites totaling \$125k. Repurposing the business center at RICC into a Grab 'n go space calling it Exchange Marketplace totaling \$250k. Loading dock repairs at RICC to replace expansion joint, fix leaks, repair ceiling over road and replace the guardrail on the ramp totaling \$400k. The above projects are scheduled for Summer of 2026. The last future project will be for security camera upgrades at AMP and RICC, this is not a summer project. (TBD - \$2,100,000). We will be hiring a consultant to evaluate the existing systems and to establish a plan to modernize the whole system. Will also

need to re-evaluate the location of the Security Center. Mr. McConaghy noted that these projects are funded through RICAP balances.

Mr. Almonte requested a motion to approve consideration of Summer 2026 work. Upon a motion from Mr. Hirsh, which was seconded by Mr. Nee, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the Consideration of Summer 2026 work.

7. Employee Highlight – Sheamus Fitzgerald (Director of Operations & Events – Vets)

Mr. Schwartz introduced Sheamus Fitzgerald noting he joined The Vets as the Director of Operations and events. Mr. Fitzgerald graduated from Johnson & Wales in 2021. He worked part-time in operations and security under Alan at PPAC while attending Johnson & Wales. He also worked at an internship with the US Open in Brookline, MA. After the internship Mr. Fitzgerald went to Aspen, Colorado for another internship in hospitality. He was there just under a year. After his internship ended, he received a call from Mr. Schwartz and Alan letting him know there was an opening for the Director of Operations at The Vets. It will be 3 years this Friday that he has been with The Vets. Mr. Fitzgerald oversees front of house operations which include security, operations, house and concessions staff. He also works with the state's DCAMM office within the DOA supporting ongoing facility maintenance and improvement projects. Mr. McConaghy stated that the state owns The Vets. Mr. Nee asked what his biggest challenge is in his position. He said scheduling part-time staff (security, concessions and operations) is his biggest challenge. Mr. McConaghy asked what his proudest moment was at The Vets. He noted that his proudest moment was during Lil Rhody Comedy Festival. They were working with Happy Valley, who handled merchandise for the event. Seeing all of this come together, including the graphics for T-shirts and posters was something he was most proud of. Mr. Almonte asked if they had any problems with the scanners. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that they are working fine. Mr. Almonte asked his standard question of how he would define success in his personal and professional life. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that professionally he considers the impact he has on others and how he wishes to be remembered. He also noted he strives to be the best version of himself. In his personal life it's having discipline, balance, hobbies and a social life with family and friends.

8. Executive Director's Report – Daniel McConaghy

- a. OVG update – Hank Abate
- b. Security Assessment update – Larry Lepore

Mr. Lepore noted that after the Brown shooting, they realized some changes in security were necessary. To do this they would need a security assessment. They found a company that is partly owned by OVG called Prevent Advisors. They will come in for two events in May 2026 after which they will give us a report and recommendations. We already know we need to update the security cameras and to move scanners to the front door for a secure entrance at the AMP. We will also look at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Mr. Abate mentioned how thorough Prevent Advisors is and knows we will be impressed with the group. Mr. MacDonald asked if the technology is there. Mr. Lepore noted that yes, it is, it has gotten so much better. The other focus Mr. Lepore and Mr. Abate have is the content at arenas. In the last two months there have been leadership changes at Worcester, Mohegan Sun and Manchester, NH. This is something we need to take advantage of, considering all our connections. Mr. Abate mentioned that he and Mr. Lepore are looking at new and fresh ways to get shows. We will need to be more aggressive but at the same time careful not to lose money. Just like we did with the Jonas Brothers. Mr. Almonte brought up the court case with Ticketmaster. Mr. Abate noted that hopefully this will not have much of an impact on us. Something we need to worry about is if they cap fees on Ticketmaster, it could impact us and everyone on a revenue standpoint. The real problem is secondhand resellers such as Stub Hub. This is not good for performers and fans.

9. Adjournment

With there being no further business to be discussed by the Board of Commissioners, Chairman Almonte asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. MacDonald, which was seconded by Mr. Mancini, it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn the April 7, 2026, meeting at 10:15 AM.