

THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 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 February 3, 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, Dale Venturini, Oscar Vargas, Jennifer Goodrich Coia, Esq., Carol Lombardi and Sarah Bratko, Esq. Board member unable to attend was Diony Garcia, Esq.

Others attending were Daniel McConaghy, Melissa O'Connor and Patricia Verrecchia, RI Convention Center Authority; Lawrence Lepore, Chris Spolidoro, Cheryl Cohen, Becca Ponder, Casey Hoover, Tim Sullivan, Robert Gemma and Tony DiPalma, RI Convention Center and AMP; Kristen Adamo, PWCVB; Alan Chile, Dan Schwartz, and Mike Gravison, PFM/The Vets; Michael Crawley, Citrin Cooperman; Bruce Leach, Legal Counsel.

1. Call to Order – Chairman Almonte called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM
2. Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 9:00 AM
3. Consent Calendar Items
 - a. Approval of the minutes of the January Board Meeting
 - b. Approval of the Finance Committee Report

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the January Board Meeting and the Finance Committee Report.

4. Marketing Committee Report – Chair Dale Venturini
 - a. RICC Monthly Report – Becca Ponder

Ms. Ponder began by noting that since sporting season is December, January and February she is going to review what the revenue looks like for a sporting event. Sporting events are less predictable than rentals so reviewing history is how we can see how we are doing. We look at concessions and parking because this is where we make money. Ms. Ponder reviewed several events, comparing this year's performance to last year's. Ms. Ponder began by reviewing RI Invitational noting that Catering was up in 2024 but went down in 2025 whereas Concessions was down in 2024 but went up in 2025. There is an upward trend in concessions. Mr. Almonte asked what the difference was between catering and concessions. Ms. Ponder stated that catering is pre-planned meals handled through sales, these are sit down meals. Concessions are the attendee coming to the event. Concessions are less predictable but gross profit is higher. Ms. Ponder reviewed the numbers for several other events showing the upward trend in concessions. Please refer to handout for more details. Mr. MacDonald asked why there was such a jump in concessions. Ms. Ponder believes it is because of the quality of food and options. Mr. McConaghy also reminded everyone of the investment in new kitchen equipment that was made last year. All these factor into the concession increase. Ms. Ponder moved onto the new bar called The Exchange. This has given guests a wider selection of beer, wine and liquor. Liquor sales have increased by 30% over last year. The Exchange Grill features made-to-order hot food items, like fresh breakfast sandwiches made in front of you. The Market offers convenient grab-and-go cold food items, beverages, and snacks. The

Market has moved to where the business center used to be located. They decided to use mobile business stations on the event floor during events. This is much more convenient for everyone. This new layout has helped decrease lines and increase sales. Ms. Ponder noted that another thing that has helped with these sporting events is to layer the events. Instead of just 1 event on the 5th floor there will be 2. The last item Ms. Ponder discussed was the ParkWhiz app. This is an app that lets the guest pre-pay for a guaranteed parking spot. They are offered a slight discount by using the platform. Pre-paying helps improve the flow of traffic in and out. Once parking is full, ParkWhiz app can be put on hold.

5. Finance Committee Report – Chair Jeff Hirsh

a. Six-Month Financial Review – Daniel McConaghy

Mr. McConaghy reviewed the six-month handout beginning with The Vets. The handout compared FY25 Q1 & Q2 with FY26 Q1 & Q2. Event type, event days, attendance, gross margin and GM% were compared. Mr. McConaghy noted that there were 53 events in FY25 and FY26 there were 50 events. Attendance was consistent. Concerts and tribute shows did not do as well this year, along with repeat shows. The AMP event days were down by 18 events compared to FY25 Q1 & Q2. This was driven by the fact that FY25 had the Circe du Soleil and Hot Wheel in the first six months as well as five additional PBruins games. The event type included PBruins, PC, family shows and concerts. Concerts did well this year. Attendance levels were down due mainly as a result of the PC games. RICC event days were also down. There were also renovations being made at RICC in the beginning of FY26. Parking at RICC/IDG were up. Overall cars parked was up 11%. Overall gross margin was up by 15%. Monthly parkers are up 7% at RICC and 13% at IDG. Transient parking is down 9% at RICC and up 31% at IDG. Please refer to handout for more details. As a quasi-state agency, our mission is to operate at the greatest public benefit at the least public cost. We are here to drive economic impact and activity.

6. Employee Highlight – Tony DiPalma (Parking Lead – IDG)

Tim Sullivan introduced Mr. DiPalma to the board noting that he has been with us since 1993 and started part-time at the garage. Mr. DiPalma mentioned that he is from Cranston, married 35 years, has 1 daughter and 2 grandchildren. He started work at the north garage and was there for 25-26 years. He has been at IDG now for over 5 years and just loves it. He enjoys coming to work and has mentioned that the people that park there are such nice people, they tend to be an older crowd and like the attention. They like having someone there to help them, they appreciate his help. He thanked Mr. Lepore and Mr. Spolidoro for moving him to IDG. Mr. Nee asked him what would make it even better. Mr. DiPalma stated that overtime would be nice. Mr. Almonte asked him how he defines success in his work life and personal life. Success to Mr. DiPalma is being happy, having a great wife and family. Loving work and liking the people you work with. He is fortunate to have all of that.

7. Executive Director's Report – Daniel McConaghy

a. Review and Consideration of 2026-2028 Strategic Plan and FY25 Highlights

Mr. McConaghy needs approval of the document from the board. Once approved, Ms. Cohen and Mr. McConaghy will mail out the document.

Mr. Almonte requested a motion from the RI Convention Center Authority to approve the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan and FY25 Highlights. Upon a motion from Mr. Hirsh, which was seconded by Mr. MacDonald, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan and FY25 Highlights.

8. 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. Nee, which was seconded by Mr. MacDonald, it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn the February 3, 2026, meeting at 10:08 AM.