

RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023

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 June 29, 2023, pursuant to notice which was posted at the Amica Mutual Pavilion, One LaSalle Square, Providence, RI and the RI Convention Center, One Sabin Street, Providence, RI.

Board members in attendance were Ernest Almonte, George Nee, Paul MacDonald, Jeffrey Hirsh (9:50am arrival), Dale Venturini, Peter Mancini, Oscar Vargas, Tony Mendez, Edward Feldstein and Stephen Iannazzi.

All Board members were present.

Others participating were Daniel McConaghy, Dana Peltier, Linda Maroun, Convention Center Authority; Dan Schwartz, The VETS; Alan Chile, PFM/The VETS; Lawrence Lepore, Rebecca Ponder, Chris Spolidoro, Robert Lauro and Cheryl Cohen, Convention Center and AMP; Kristen Adamo and Jonathan Walker, PWCVB; Bruce Leach, Legal Counsel; and Michael Crawley, Citrin Cooperman.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Almonte called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Announcement of Next Board Meeting Date

Chairman Almonte stated that next month’s meeting will take place on Thursday, July 27th at 9:00 AM.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chairman Almonte began the meeting explaining the new format of the Authority’s Board meeting which includes a Consent Agenda. This agenda includes the meeting minutes from the previous month’s Board meeting as well as the reports of both the Finance and Marketing committees. A motion was made by **Mr. MacDonald** to approve the consent agenda which was seconded by **Mr. Mancini**. With no further discussion or questions by the Board, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the consent agenda.

4. Executive Director Report for Approvals

Mr. McConaghy had no items needing approval by the Board at this time.

5. Marketing – Ms. Dale Venturini

Ms. Venturini reported that the Marketing Committee spent the past two meetings diving more deeply into the booking process for all three venues. It was an enlightening discussion revealing the complexities and nuances of the various types of events, clients, and contractual arrangements within each venue. There was great participation and involvement by all members of each venue in the exercise including the PWCVB.

6. Finance/Operations

(a) Authority and Consolidated – Dan McConaghy

Mr. McConaghy reported on the Consolidated report for the Authority's financials. The Authority's consolidated report shows profits of nearly \$2.4m. The major effort over the past few weeks has been re-allocating the costs within each venue to reflect the actual financial performance of each operation more appropriately. The results for FY23 have been consistently strong.

(b) The AMP and RICC Operations Update – Mr. McConaghy and Mr. Lepore

Mr. McConaghy and **Mr. Lepore** provided full updates on the multitude of projects ongoing in the AMP, RICC and Clifford Street Garage.

There are currently six ongoing projects at the AMP:

- (i) Roof: The roof replacement project remains on budget and on schedule. Our contractor, Dimeo, has had some issues with leaks during severe weather events, but mitigation protocols have been instituted. **Mr. MacDonald** asked about leaks at the smoke evac fans. It was explained that those fans will be removed, rebuilt and then re-installed to ensure they won't leak in the future.
- (ii) Seats: The seats under contract with Irwin on the north end of the arena will be delivered on July 10th. Installation will take a few weeks.
- (iii) Dasher Boards: The dasher boards are complete, but off-site. They will not be delivered until later in August when they are needed. The existing dasher system was donated to the City of West Warwick.
- (iv) Subfloor: The subfloor is on-site and stored in the arena. It will be measured and cut to proper dimensions once the dasher system is installed later in August.
- (v) Remaining Marquees: The back marquee along Route 95 and the three banners on Sabin Street have been delayed from a June installation until the week of July 10th. Installation and commissioning should take a week.
- (vi) Control Room: The control room in the AMP has not been renovated for decades. New equipment to control sound and video will be installed and a new area for the technicians will be created. The project is well underway and will be completed in time for the beginning of the hockey season.

At the RICC, the focus has been on the planning and design of the fifth-floor renovations. The architectural team of ZDS and Populous presented four preliminary plans ranging from minor restorations to more extensive, full-blown renovations. **Chairman Almonte** asked the team to plan on more research and development of the economic impact of a larger renovation program as well as the overall justification for that possible approach.

Finally, the kickoff meeting for the solar canopy project at the Clifford Street Garage is being held on June 29th. Options are being weighed related to EV stations within the Garage and whether the canopy system can power them.

7. Discussion Items

- (a) Strategic Plan Process (report attached): **Chairman Almonte** started the conversation discussing the necessity to have a roadmap for the Authority and its operation. Mr. McConaghy provided some history that the last time a plan was developed was right before the start of the pandemic. Since then, separate marketing, finance and capital plans have been developed. Now that the Authority has emerged and trends are starting to become identifiable, it is time to draft a 3-5 year plan. More broadly, the Authority would like to view its future in three states: immediate (one year), intermediate (2-3 years) and future (three years and beyond).

The process should take the next few months to complete as a facilitator is engaged and various stakeholders provide input. This fits well into the normal development of FY25 budgets, the five-year RICAP plan and the creation of the marketing plans for each venue.

- (b) Security Upgrades (report attached): At the insistence of **Ms. Venturini**, the team reviewed the current strengths and weaknesses of the complex's security plan as well as the training of team members in the event of an issue. **Mr. McConaghy, Mr. Lepore and Mr. Lauro** presented several tactical items that have been put in place in recent weeks to secure the employees in both the AMP and RICC. They also presented several future items which will improve communication and overall security. Mr. Lauro discussed several initiatives with RIEMA and the City of Providence Police Department to offer training in the coming months. A date of September 6, 2023 has been set for active shooter training and other simulations/demonstrations. Members of the Board will be invited to participate. **Ms. Venturini** encouraged the team to reach out to nearby buildings, such as the Omni and Hasbro, to see what they may have instituted. **Mr. Iannazzi** recommended including the Providence Fire Department in these discussions as well.

(c) Open Discussion:

- a. **Chairman Almonte** briefed the Board on discussions he had with the victim of the shooting near the Convention Center and AMP last month. He indicated that the victim was incredibly appreciative of the efforts of the staff of the RICC and PWCVB to make him as comfortable as possible. **Chairman Almonte** thanked the team for all their efforts considering the circumstances.
- b. Discussion ensued about locking down the bathrooms on the first floor of the RICC as transients tend to occupy them during the day while engaging in detrimental behavior. This has been done in the past but was met with some resistance. It was suggested by **Mr. Nee** that Mr. Lepore and his team review and make a recommendation as to the most appropriate action to take.

8. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, **Chairman Almonte** asked Mr. McConaghy to make a few remarks on the passing of long-time executive assistant, Ms. Eileen Smith. **Mr. McConaghy** expressed his great appreciation for the short time he had to work with Ms. Smith and how easy she made his transition into the role of Executive Director beginning in March of 2021. **Mr. McConaghy** also expressed his condolences on behalf of the team to Vice Chairman Nee who was Ms. Smith's brother-in-law. Similar comments were made by **Mr. Mancini**. **Mr. Nee** expressed his appreciation and commented on how she will be missed.

At that time, **Chairman Almonte** suggested the meeting be adjourned surrounding Ms. Smith's customary chair and desk in the Board room. After a moment of silence and with there being no further business to be discussed by the Authority, **Chairman Almonte** asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by **Ms. Venturini** and seconded by **Mr. Hirsh**, it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn the June 29, 2023 meeting at 10:15 AM.