

THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 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 September 1, 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, Peter Mancini, Oscar Vargas, Carol Lombardi and Diony Garcia, Esq., Jennifer Goodrich Coia, Esq., and Sarah Bratko, Esq. Board members unable to attend were Paul MacDonald and Farouk Rejab.

Others attending were Daniel McConaghy, Dana Peltier, Melissa O'Connor, Linda Maroun and Patricia Verrecchia, RI Convention Center Authority; Lawrence Lepore, Cheryl Cohen, Chris Spolidoro, Becca Ponder, Casey Hoover, Tim Sullivan, Maggie Giammarco, Al Fera, RI Convention Center and AMP; Kristen Adamo and Tom Riel, PWCVB; Alan Chile, Dan Schwartz and Mike Gravison, PFM/The Vets; Hank Abate and Joe Dolan, OVG; 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, Oct. 6, 2026, at 9:00 AM
3. Consent Calendar Items
  - a. Approval of the minutes of the July Board Meeting
  - b. Approval of the Marketing Committee Report
  - c. 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 Mr. Mancini, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** to approve the consent calendar items

4. Marketing Committee Report – Chair Jeff Hirsh
  - a. PWCVB FY26 Report – Kristen Adamo and Tom Riel

Mr. Hirsh handed the meeting over to Ms. Adamo and Mr. Riel. Mr. Riel began by reviewing the recap of the year noting that FY 2026 was a record-breaking year even though it did not look so great at the beginning. 579 leads were put out to market with 272 bookings for the year. There were 71 definite new groups for RICC, 14 more from last year and \$12k more from last year. Attendee number grew by 7.5%. Of these events, 29 were sports related. One of the challenges at RICC is that March is a fully booked month. JLC Live was requesting more space, therefore we forced them into a multi-year contract for 2029, 2030 and 2031. Due to this we lost a great cheer event but eventually gained another event from them. More scientific societies are starting to rotate back into Providence. \$126m spent in the destination because of our bookings. 63% of this total are coming through RICC. Mr. Riel reviewed a list of new prospects. Please see attached. The marketing and sales team worked on the production of a virtual meeting planner presentation for ASAE Demo Day, playing off a morning show format. This was a huge success and we received 4 – RFPs as a result. Ms. Adamo gave an update on the hotel occupancy during World Cup noting it was down. One of the problems was with Airbnb, noting they added 100 new rooms in Providence. The restaurants did extremely well except for fine dining, they did not do as well. The

fan zone did well, and 5,000 people took the stadium express. The biggest success was with the media. There were 6,000 members of the Scottish Tartan Army in Providence. They donated \$30k to local charities, including \$15k going to Hasbro Children's Hospital. Rhode Islanders felt compelled to give back, raising \$15k for the Glasgow Children's Hospital.

## 5. Finance Committee Report – Chair Jeff Hirsh

### a. Authority-wide Financial Highlights FY26

Mr. McConaghy reviewed Authority-wide financial highlights for 2026 noting we were up financially across the board. Gross revenue was up 6% and gross margin was up 7.1% even though event days and attendance were down. Parking revenue increased 12.4%, and Food & Beverage grew 16.5%. The AMP had a challenging year due to lack of events. PC Friars did not do well this past season and PBruins were also down. RICC attendance was down due to FIFA World Cup and construction. Attendance was down by 9k but it was still a good financial year. The Vets were down a little in event days and attendance. There were fewer comedy shows but more concerts and tribute shows. Little Rhody Laugh Riot was a big success. IDG was up across the board including 12% increase in total revenue. Daily parkers were up 22% and EV charges were up 160%. Traffic volume was up 32%. Please see attached for more information.

### b. Review and Consideration of delegating the approval of the Authority's FY26 audit to the Finance Committee

Mr. McConaghy began by noting that the audit is due to the state by the end of September. The Board meeting is on October 6, missing the deadline. Last year we voted at the Board level to delegate the Authority to approve that audit to the finance committee, which meets on September 29 this year.

Mr. Almonte requested a motion to delegate the approval of the Authority's FY26 audit to the Finance Committee. Upon a motion from Mr. Nee, which was seconded by Mr. Hirsh, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** to delegate the approval of the audit to the Finance Committee

## 6. Employee Highlight – Maggie Giammarco (Catering Sales Manager – RICC)

Mr. Fera introduced Maggie Giammarco to the Board by noting that she is the person working to put together the events. She assists with more than just sales, including coordinating events and ensuring that everything is properly timed and organized. Maggie began by noting that she is from Connecticut and moved to Rhode Island to attend Johnson & Wales University. She graduated in 2018 with a degree in Hotel and Lodging Management. She began her hospitality career at the Weekapaug Inn in Westerly as a front desk agent. After 6 months she was promoted to Junior Catering Manager at their sister property, Ocean House. This is where she gained valuable experience in event planning, sales and private functions. She continued to grow her career at Renaissance Providence, Hotel Viking, and Omni Providence. At Omni she was promoted to catering sales manager, managing a wide range of events including corporate meetings, galas, proms, and weddings. Ms. Giammarco joined RICC in April 2025 as a catering sales manager. She enjoys the variety of the industry, noting that no two events are ever the same. Mr. Nee asked Ms. Giammarco what the most challenging part of her job is. She noted that waiting is the most challenging, but the rewarding part is handholding and guiding the clients. Mr. Hirsh asked how we can help get larger events like Hasbro Gala. She noted by word of mouth and getting out there and re-inventing ourselves, changing the menu, having more options etc. Mr. Almonte recommended having conversations with Quasi-state organizations that may be able to bring larger events to the facility. Mr. Lepore asked if the changes to the kitchen have helped. Ms. Giammarco noted that yes, it can help especially with the new menu and tastings. Mr. Almonte asked how she defines success in her work and personal life.

Ms. Giammarco noted that in her personal life it's about a good work/life balance and taking pride in curating the life you want. In her professional life it's about taking pride in your work, knowing people can rely on her and she will do a good job and get it done.

7. Executive Director's Report – Daniel McConaghy

a. Executive Sessions

- i. Executive session pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(6) in connection with the discussion related to the prospect of a business locating in the state of Rhode Island.
- ii. Executive session pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(5) in connection with the discussion related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes.

Chairman Almonte requested a motion to move into executive session pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(6) in connection with the discussion related to the prospect of a business locating in the state of Rhode Island and pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(5) in connection with the discussion related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes.

Upon a motion made by Chairman Almonte, which was seconded by Mr. Nee, a roll call vote was taken:

Chairman Almonte – Aye  
Mr. Nee – Aye  
Mr. Vargas – Aye  
Mr. Garcia, Esq. – Aye  
Ms. Bratko, Esq. – Aye

Mr. Hirsh – Aye  
Mr. Mancini – Aye  
Ms. Lombardi – Aye  
Ms. Goodrich-Coia, Esq. – Aye

With the roll call vote being unanimous, the Committee members moved into Executive Session at 9:40 AM.

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Almonte indicated that one vote was taken in Executive Session in connection with the discussion related to the prospect of a business locating in the state of Rhode Island. Mr. Almonte requested a motion to close and seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Garcia and seconded by Mr. Nee, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To seal the minutes of the Executive Session

8. Adjournment

Mr. Almonte asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Hirsh, which was seconded by Mr. Mancini, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** to adjourn at 10:41