

**THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY  
MEETING OF THE  
DUNKIN' DONUTS CENTER COMMITTEE**

**September 22, 2009**

**A meeting of the Dunkin' Donuts Center Committee of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority (hereinafter referred to as "Authority", the "CCA" or the "Board") was held on September 22, 2009, pursuant to notice, at the Rhode Island Convention Center Boardroom, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.**

**Board members present were Committee Chairman Bernie Buonanno, Board Chairman David Duffy, Commissioners Paul MacDonald and Jeff Hirsh.**

**Also in attendance were Jim McCarvill and Betty Sullivan, RICCA; Tim Muldoon and Nancy Beauchamp, RICC; Larry Lepore, Robert Cappalli, DDC; Tom Crocker, Sportservice; Bruce Leach, Legal Council and Eileen Smith, recording secretary.**

**Mr. Buonanno called the meeting to order at 1:50 pm.**

**Mr. Buonanno asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. MacDonald and seconded by Mr. Hirsh it was unanimously**

**VOTED: to approve the minutes of the July meeting.**

**Mr. Buonanno asked Mr. Lepore to address the committee. Mr. Lepore reported that the Dunkin' Donuts Center did not have any events in August but September looks like it will be a very good month. Mr. Lepore noted that the directors have done an incredible job in keeping expenses down. Mr. Lepore stated that every effort is being made to reduce unnecessary spending. He said that because of this effort August was better than budget by 187%.**

**Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty in booking acts into the Dunkin' Donuts Center. Mr. Lepore reported that our competition, Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods has outbid us on several concerts. He noted that we were recently outbid for Robin Williams by Mohegan Sun. Mr. MacDonald asked what the ticket price will be for Robin Williams. Mr. Lepore said that he thinks the price will be approximately \$90.00 but Mohegan Sun does not expect to make money on the concert but on the patrons that will spend money in the casino. Mr. Duffy asked if that world will get any better. Mr. Lepore responded that the casinos can't keep this up forever. Mr. Duffy asked if Foxwood is doing the same thing. Mr. Lepore stated that they do not because the venue at Foxwood is not big enough. Mr. Lepore noted that Mohegan and Foxwood enjoy the ability to get additional revenue from their casinos and restaurants.**

**Mr. Lepore reported that a new show has been added to the Dunk schedule. Star Wars in Concert will be here in November. Mr. Lepore**

said that the orchestra features more than 90 musicians and features music from all Star Wars movies. The show is narrated live by Anthony Daniels (voice of C3PO) and will have laser lights and large hi-def screens. Mr. Lepore reported that Star War characters will be roaming the concourse. Mr. Duffy asked if there would be an opportunity to work with Hasbro with a collectors show at the Convention Center. Mr. Lepore stated that Hasbro was not interested at the moment. Mr. Lepore reported that the Jay Z concert is a sell out. He said that the concert has been promoted on college campuses in other parts of the country and that he let the promoter know that Providence has a huge college student population. Mr. MacDonald said that he had noticed that we lost an event, Kanye West, to the DCU. Mr. Lepore said that we did not really lose out but the artist wanted the Boston market. Mr. Duffy asked what SMG had brought to the facility. Mr. Lepore stated that they had brought Spirit of America, Jay Z and Star Wars. Mr. Lepore reported that the Disney on Ice show had not done very well. He noted that the show did not have a theme. Mr. Duffy asked what happens if more people show up for Spirit of America than the arena can hold. Mr. Lepore said that we have places to put them. He said that we would use the suites and the restaurant if needed. Mr. Lepore said that the Army has devised a formula and assures us that we will not have a problem. Mr. Lepore reported that the Army is staying at the Westin and is not having a good experience.

Mr. Lepore noted that Hank Abate is coming to town tomorrow. Mr.

**Buonanno asked if Mr. Lepore thinks that they have stepped up their efforts on our behalf. Mr. Lepore responded that they have.**

**Mr. MacDonald asked about the health of Dave Gavitt. Mr. Duffy and Mr. Buonanno responded that they had spoken with him and Julie and that he still has some health issues. Mr. Buonanno assured Mr. MacDonald that he would let Mr. Gavitt know of our concern and best wishes.**

**Tom Crocker of Sportservice addressed the Committee. Mr. Crocker distributed a design plan for concession signage. Mr. Crocker said that Sportservice is looking at ways to enhance the concessions and draw people to the stands at the far end of the arena and away from those at the entrance that causing a bottle neck. Mr. Buonanno noted that Narragansett is spelled incorrectly in the presentation. Mr. McCarvill said that he thought we were going to do Papa Gino's. Mr. Crocker said that we are. Discussions ensued regarding the need for additional signage. Mr. Buonanno asked the cost of the project. Mr. Crocker estimated \$30,000 including installation. Mr. Buonanno said that the Commissioners are interested in the improvements but do not feel that the Authority should be responsible for the entire cost.**

**Mr. Buonanno asked if there was any other business. Hearing none he sought a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Hirsh and seconded by Mr. Duffy it was unanimously**

**VOTED: to adjourn at 2:32 p.m.**