

**THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CONVENTION CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 27, 2007

A meeting of the Convention Center Committee of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority (hereinafter referred to as “Authority”, the “CCA” or the “Board”) was held on March 27, 2007 pursuant to notice, at the Rhode Island Convention Center Boardroom, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Board members present were Commissioners Bernie Buonanno, Dave Duffy, Jeff Hirsh and Paul MacDonald.

Also in attendance were Jim McCarvill, Kerrie Bennett and Betty Sullivan, RICCA; Tim Muldoon, Debbie Tuton and Nancy Beauchamp, RICC; Larry Lepore, Dunkin’ Donuts Center; Bruce Leach, Legal Counsel; Kevin Madigan, Senate Fiscal and Eileen Smith, recording secretary.

Mr. Duffy called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m. (at the rise of the Dunkin’ Donuts Center Committee). Mr. Duffy reported that Mr. Massa had resigned his commission. Mr. Duffy said that he had appointed Marianne Corr as Chairman of the Convention Center Committee. Mr. Duffy announced that the next meeting would be held on April 24th at the rise of the Dunkin’ Donuts Committee meeting.

Noting that the minutes of the February meeting had been distributed Mr. Duffy sought a motion to approve. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Hirsh and seconded by Mr. MacDonald it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the February meeting.

Mr. Muldoon presented the financial highlights for the month of February. Mr. Muldoon stated that \$248,000 net income was \$100,000 ahead of last year but negative to budget. Mr. Muldoon reported that food and beverage revenues were flat to last year because of some timing issues. He said that concession revenues were off and public show attendance was down. Mr. Muldoon continued that the Home Show was down on Friday because of snow. Mr. MacDonald asked if the Ryan Center was affecting attendance. Mr. Muldoon responded that that it is possible. Mr. Muldoon said that parking revenues are up due to Dunkin' Donuts Center events and construction parkers. He stated that convention numbers remain solid.

Mr. Muldoon reported that the CVS Charity Classic dinner would not be held in the Convention Center this year. Mr. Duffy asked if there was anything that the Board could do encourage its return next year. Mr. Muldoon said that he would call on the Commissioners if needed. He said that they will pay closer attention in the future.

Mr. Muldoon reported that the bids for the ground level ballroom had been received and ranged from \$1.1 million to \$1.35 million, well over

the \$850,000 that was expected. He said that he hasn't given up on the project but did not recommend moving forward with the current plans. Mr. Muldoon noted that RGB and Morris Nathanson had underestimated the cost of the project that they had presented. Mr. Leach explained the options for re-bidding. He noted that the ballroom would need to be redesigned and an RFP advertised. Mr. McCarvill asked do we want to redesign. He said that if the bids were 50% more than RGB and Morris Nathansons' estimates we should not be obligated to them. Mr. MacDonald said that the fact that they were that far off is bothersome. Discussions ensued regarding the steps that need to be taken at this stage of the process. Mr. Duffy suggested that we officially reject all bids. Mr. MacDonald asked if any of the work could be done in-house. Mr. Muldoon responded that some of the components could possibly be done by Convention Center staff but because they are so busy it would be difficult. Mr. MacDonald said that over the years our staff has done a great job.

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Duffy and seconded by Mr. MacDonald it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn at 4:10 p.m.