

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

**November 18, 2008**

**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 November 18, 2008, pursuant to notice, at the Rhode Island Convention Center Boardroom, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.**

**Board members present were Chairman Jeff Hirsh and Commissioners Dale Venturini, Jason Fowler, Dave Duffy, Bernie Buonanno and Paul MacDonald.**

**Also in attendance were Jim McCarvill and Betty Sullivan, RICCA; Tim Muldoon, John McGinn, Deb Tuton and Arlene Oliva, RICC; Larry Lepore, Cheryl Cohen, Lisa Coelho, Jodi Duclos and Eleanor SanAntonio, Dunkin’ Donuts Center; Steve Habl, VMA; Bruce Leach, Legal Counsel; Bob Bromely, Senate Fiscal Office and Eileen Smith, recording secretary.**

**Mr. Hirsh called the meeting to order at 2:57 pm and announced that the next meeting would be held on Monday, December 22nd at the rise of the Dunkin’ Donuts Committee meeting, approximately 3:00 pm.**

**Mr. Hirsh sought a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. MacDonald it was unanimously**

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

**Mr. Hirsh asked Mr. Muldoon to address the Committee. Mr. Muldoon reported that October was a good month from an event perspective. He said that Rock the Ink was a very good event on the Convention Center side and that he would love to see it come back. Mr. Duffy asked if the show interfered with the Miriam Hospital Gala in any way.**

**Mr. Muldoon stated that he did not receive any complaints from the Miriam group. Mr. Hirsh asked if there is another place in the State where Miriam or other large group could hold an event. Mr. Muldoon responded that Twin River or Rhodes could accommodate such a large crowd but not many other venues. He said that the Westin would be a tight fit. Mr. Muldoon also noted that our prices are competitive. Mr. Fowler reported that he had attended the Urban League Ball in Newport and asked if that group would be a good match for the Convention Center. Mr. Muldoon said that the Urban League and the Black Heritage Society could present opportunities for the facility. Mr. Duffy asked Mr. Muldoon if there had been any layoffs during this downturn. Mr. Muldoon was disappointed to report that there had been a few and that hours for part time workers are also down. Mr. Muldoon said that November looks promising.**

**Mr. Muldoon reported that the Westin has asked a few times recently to increase parking in the South Garage for hotel events. He said that additional parking for the hotel is now an option.**

**Mr. Duffy stated that the recent sales retreat was a very good idea. He said it is important for the sales team to express ideas and make suggestions. Mr. Muldoon reported that the customer surveys are proof that the Convention Center has a great sales team. Mr. Fowler inquired if the survey asks the likelihood of returning to the venue. Mr. Muldoon said that it does. Mr. Fowler said that it would be interesting to see the correlation between repeat business and the survey results. Mr. Duffy asked how the building is looking. Mr. Muldoon said that the building looks great thanks to a wonderful staff. He noted that due to the upcoming event schedule there are no major projects scheduled.**

**Mr. McCarvill noted the inclusion of two rent waivers. The International Association for Food Protection and GovEnergy will have great economic impact on the State. Mr. Fowler asked if the meeting planners had provided the anticipated economic impact. Mr. Muldoon said that the anticipated impact had come from research of past venues. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Duffy and seconded by Mr. MacDonald it was unanimously**

**VOTED: to approve the rent waivers.**

**Mr. Hirsh asked if there were any new business. Hearing none he entertained a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Duffy and seconded by Mr. Fowler it was unanimously**

**VOTED: to adjourn at 3:20 p.m.**