

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

January 27, 2009

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 January 27, 2009, pursuant to notice, at the Rhode Island Convention Center Boardroom, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Board members present were Committee Chairman, Jeff Hirsh, Commissioners, Paul MacDonald, Bernie Buonanno and Dale Venturini.

Also in attendance were Jim McCarvill, Kim Keough, Ken Mancuso and Betty Sullivan, RICCA; PWCVB; Tim Muldoon, Deb Tuton, Arlene Oliva and Nancy Beauchamp, RICC; Larry Lepore, Cheryl Cohen, Lisa Coelho, Jodi Duclos and Eleanor SanAntonio, Dunkin’ Donuts Center; Steve Habl, VMA and Eileen Smith, recording secretary.

Mr. Hirsh called the meeting to order at 2:40 pm. Mr. Hirsh sought a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Buonanno and seconded by Ms. Venturini it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the December meeting.

Mr. Hirsh asked Mr. Muldoon to present the financial information. Mr. Muldoon reported that December's Net Income negative variance is mainly the result of lower than expected food & beverage income as well as parking revenue shortfall. Mr. Hirsh noted that this would be a good time for Mr. Muldoon to brief the Committee on brochures for the parking garage. Mr. Muldoon said that on a recent sales call to GTECH he was asked if he could leave a brochure with parking rates and the amenities enjoyed by parking in garage. Mr. Muldoon stated that we do not have anything advertising the garage and it would be helpful if a pamphlet could be printed and distributed to human resource managers at local businesses. Mr. Muldoon also noted that at Mr. Fowler's suggestion he has looked at other locations to advertise the Convention Center Parking Garages. Mr. Muldoon said that unfortunately as vehicles exit the highway at exit 21 there is no available or safe location to put signage. He said that he is still looking for a more prominent spot. Mr. Muldoon noted that flaggers were used to direct traffic to our garage for the first time and it appears that they made a difference. Mr. Muldoon reported that at the suggestion of the Committee he has investigated the possibilities for parking Johnson & Wales students and train station parking. He noted that Johnson & Wales was not interested because our location is a good distance from their campus. The train station parkers have found a lot that is closer behind the Citizens Bank building. Mr. McCarvill asked Mr. Muldoon his opinion regarding the purchase of the Providence Journal parking lot. Mr. Muldoon said that at the

present time he would not recommend the purchase but that he would give more thought to the idea.

Mr. Hirsh asked Mr. Habi to address the Committee. Mr. Habi reported that net income for the month of December was \$12,362 better than budget and year to date net income is \$45,557 positive to budget. Mr. Habi noted that the theater is not seeing much revenue in facility fees. He said that rental income is the only significant source of revenue. Mr. Habi noted that food & beverage is a challenge. Mr. Habi reported that the State is still handling snow removal and they do a very good job clearing the sidewalks. Mr. Hirsh asked if Mr. Habi thought that business was being lost because of the lack of parking. Mr. Habi said that it doesn't appear to be an issue. He said that events at the facility attract a more senior crowd and they do not seem to mind the walk from the State lots or the Providence Place Mall. Mr. Habi noted that the web site does not do a very good job of informing people of available parking and that is being addressed. Mr. Hirsh suggested discounting our garage for use by the theater. Mr. Habi noted that we would need to look at a shuttle service because of the distance. Ms. Venturini asked if valet parking could be an option. Mr. Habi said that he doesn't know what he would do with the cars. Mr. Habi reported that the facility is running lean but not mean. Mr. Hirsh wished Mr. Habi good luck and reiterated that we will help any way that we can.

Mr. Hirsh asked if there were any new business. Hearing none he

entertained a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Venturini and seconded by Mr. Buonanno it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.