

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

February 24, 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 February 24, 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, Dave Duffy 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 2:45 pm. Mr. Hirsh sought a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Duffy and seconded by Mr. MacDonald it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the January meeting.

Mr. Hirsh asked Mr. Muldoon to present the financial information. Mr. Muldoon reported that January's Net Income negative variance is mainly the result of budgeted events that did not take place and the timing of other events that impacted all revenue. Mr. McCarvill explained that the Boat Show although most of the event occurred in January ended in February therefore that revenue will be accounted for in February. Mr. Muldoon reported that parking continues to be down. Mr. Muldoon noted that the REMAX event has been canceled but will look at dates for the Fall. Mr. Muldoon reported that a lot of ground should be made up in February. Mr. Muldoon noted that the Westin Hotel has not been able to sell or rent the office space in the Dome Building. He said that if that space were occupied there would be an impact on parking. Mr. Muldoon said that everyone is pounding the pavement trying to increase business. Mr. Muldoon stated that he thinks that revenue will down to last year. Mr. Duffy asked if costs have been cut as much as possible. Mr. Muldoon responded that costs have been cut wherever possible. He noted that some positions have been lost and staff members that have left are not being replaced. Mr. Duffy inquired if there have been any salary increases. Mr. Muldoon responded that there have been no raises and there will be no raises between now and July 1. Mr. Duffy asked Mr. Abate about salary and benefits. Mr. Abate said unfortunately there have been some reductions in benefits and increases in employee contributions to health care. Mr. Muldoon stated that although we are down to budget the Convention Center will make \$2 million this year.

Mr. Hirsh asked Ms. Tuton to report on operations at the Convention Center. Ms. Tuton reported that the complex has received \$175,000 in energy rebates and should see a \$100,000 yearly savings by combining the facilities energy requirements. Ms. Tuton reported that the Convention Center is participating in a demand response program with National Grid. She said that the facility receives a monthly stipend for our participation and readiness to shed a portion of our electrical load in periods of high demand. Ms. Tuton noted that the emergency generators would be used if the need arises. Mr. MacDonald stated that Ms. Tuton and her staff have done a great job but encouraged her to look into solar. Mr. McCarvill noted that the Atlantic City Convention Center is installing solar panels.

Mr. Hirsh asked Mr. Hahl to address the Committee. Mr. Hahl reported that net income for the month of January was (\$20,588) to budget. He stated that year to date net income is \$24,969 positive to budget. Mr. Hahl noted that the theater has seen an uptick in attendance for the Ballet and the Philharmonic. Mr. Hahl stated that he is attempting to re-invigorate interest in the building and improve attendance at events. He said that the building is not ready for more events because the bathrooms and the back of house are in very poor condition. Mr. Duffy asked how much it would cost to do everything. Mr. Hahl said that the number right now is \$8 million but that they are still working on the plans. Mr. McCarvill noted that we are searching for locations to install new bathrooms. Mr. MacDonald asked if any of

the stimulus money could be directed to the project. Mr. Duffy said that the Governor is putting a plan together for the stimulus money.

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. MacDonald it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn at 315 p.m.