

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

February 22, 2011

A meeting of the Convention Center Committee of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority Board of Commissioners was held on February 22, 2011, pursuant to notice at the Rhode Island Convention Center Boardroom, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Board members present were Committee Chairman Jeff Hirsh, Dale Venturini, Jason Fowler, Patrick Butler and Letitia Carter.

Also in attendance were Jim McCarvill, Betty Sullivan and Kim Keough, RICCA; Tim Muldoon, Arleen Oliva, Deb Tuton, Nancy Beauchamp, Amanda Marzullo and Melissa Masunic, RICC; Cheryl Cohen, and Jodi Duclos, DDC; Steve Habl, VMA; Michael Nugent, House of Representatives; Bruce Leach, Legal Council and Eileen Smith, recording secretary.

Mr. Hirsh called the meeting to order at 1:50 PM.

Mr. Hirsh entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Ms. Venturini it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the January meeting

Mr. Hirsh recognized Mr. Muldoon and asked that he address the Committee. Mr. Muldoon reported that January was a good month at the Convention Center although slightly down to last year. Mr. Muldoon said that he was pleasantly surprised at how well we did in January mostly due to an increase in catering revenue. Mr. Muldoon stated that he sees some positive signs that attendance is picking up. He also noted that event parking numbers are strong.

Mr. Muldoon reported that the snow removal team has done a great job of keeping the building safe during these past few weeks. He said that the roof has held up well considering the weight of the snow and the number of recent instances where roof failure has been in the news. Mr. Muldoon noted that storm drains and sidewalks have been kept clear. Mr. Hirsh asked Mr. Muldoon if he was aware that one of the turnstiles was not working during the Golf Expo. Mr. Muldoon stated that he was aware and that it is being repaired. He also said that he was confident that the ticket count was good.

Mr. Duffy asked Mr. Hahl to bring the Committee up to date on the VMA. Mr. Hahl said that the VMA did better than he thought it would. He said that food & beverage numbers are up significantly. Mr. Hirsh stated that there has to be a way to get the Philharmonic patrons to spend more on food & beverage. Mr. Hirsh suggested that we sit down with the Philharmonic to see if they have any suggestions. Mr. Hahl said that he was thinking of trying Champaign. Ms. Venturini

stated that perhaps a liquor store could do a promotion. Mr. Hahl said that he would keep looking at options to increase sales.

Mr. McCarvill reported on the progress of the renovations. Mr. McCarvill explained the issue that we have with Park Street which has impacted our ability to expand the theater. Mr. McCarvill said that VHB is in the process of surveying the street and taking borings of the sidewalk. Mr. McCarvill reported that we also need to look at hazmat mitigation. Mr. McCarvill noted that the estimates for the renovation will most likely cost more than we have available. He said that we will keep the costs down by deciding on the most crucial aspects of the renovations.

Mr. McCarvill stated that a press conference is being scheduled for March 29th to launch the new VETS logo and to make public our planned improvements to the building. Mr. McCarvill said that we cannot sell the much needed improvements until the plans are made public.

Discussion ensued regarding the VMAF's diversity festival. Ms. Carter reported that the VMAF is working on a multicultural festival to be held at the VETS on Memorial Day Weekend. She said that the event will focus on the diversity of talent that we are fortunate enough to enjoy in Rhode Island. Mr. Hahl noted that he will assist with the festival where needed. Mr. McCarvill said that the festival will be good exposure for the talent and the building.

Mr. Hirsh asked if there was any new business. Hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Venturini and seconded by Mr. Butler it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn at 2:20 PM