

**THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY 334th  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS November 19, 2009**

**A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority (hereinafter referred to as "Authority", the "CCA" or the "Board") was held on November 19, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. pursuant to notice, at the Rhode Island Convention Center Boardroom, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.**

**Board members present were Chairman, David Duffy, Commissioners, Jeff Hirsh, William Daugherty, Bernie Buonanno, Letitia Carter, Patrick Butler, Paul MacDonald and Jason Fowler.**

**Mr. Gavitt and Mr. Nee were unable to attend.**

**Also present were James P. McCarvill, Executive Director, Betty Sullivan, Ken Mancuso and Kim Keough, Rhode Island Convention Center Authority; Bruce Leach, Legal Counsel; Tim Muldoon, Deb Tuton, Kathy Masino and Nancy Beauchamp, SMG/RICC; Larry Lepore, Bob Cappalli and Cheryl Cohen, SMG/DDC; Steve Habl, VMA; John Valez, Sportservice; Joseph Solomon, House Policy Office; Judy Capet, Senate Fiscal; Chris Cook, Alfred Pano, Michael Crene, Idalina Fuss, Kate Moulding, Westin Hotel and Local 217 H.E.R.E. and Eileen Smith, Recording Secretary.**

**Chairman Duffy noting that a quorum was not present began the meeting as informational only at 9:05 AM.**

**Mr. Duffy informed the Board that the sister of Ken Mancuso had passed away and offered the sympathies of the Board.**

**Mr. Duffy asked Mr. McCarvill to present the financial information.**

**Mr. McCarvill noted that the VMA net income for the month of October was (\$13,390) to budget. Mr. McCarvill reported the Year to Date net income was \$9,268 better than budget and \$2,258 to the prior year.**

**Mr. McCarvill said that the VMA is on an upward trend in terms of overall activity but we need to find a way to increase attendance. Mr. McCarvill reported that the Convention Center net income for the month of October was \$98,209 to budget and \$20,271 to the prior year. Year to date net income was \$589,095 to budget and \$908,445 to the previous year. Mr. McCarvill stated that Food & Beverage and ancillary income exceeded budget expectations. Mr. McCarvill reported that cost saving methods continue to produce good results.**

**Mr. Butler and Mr. Fowler arrived at 9:10 AM.**

**Mr. McCarvill stated that the Dunkin' Donuts Center net income for October was \$239,771 to budget and \$239,771 for the prior year. Year to date net income was \$488,846 to budget and \$714,394 to the prior year. Mr. McCarvill reported that the Jay Z concert and the Demi Lovato were successful events for the Dunk. He also reported that the Providence Bruins are working hard to promote every game. Year to date the Authority is (\$25,544) to budget and \$1,383,218 to the prior year and includes \$1,500,000 from the State in annual start up funds.**

**Mr. McCarvill reported that consolidated net income for October was \$217,073 to budget and \$307,782 to the prior year. Year to date consolidated net income is \$1,052,397 to budget and \$3,006,053 to the prior year.**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

**Noting that we had reached a quorum Chairman Duffy called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM Mr. Duffy commented that the financial report was the best that we have had in a long time.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Duffy entertained a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the 333rd meeting, October, 2009. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. MacDonald and seconded by Mr. Butler it was unanimously VOTED: to approve the minutes as distributed**

**Mr. Duffy instructed the Authority office to send the approved minutes to the Secretary of State's Office via electronic mail. Mr. Duffy announced that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, December 23, 2009 at 9:00 AM.**

## **CONVENTION CENTER COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Hirsh reported that the Convention Center Committee had met on November 17th and that the Convention Center continues to do well.**

**Mr. Muldoon reported that October was another very strong month. He reminded the Board that Re/Max had asked to cancel a meeting in the Spring and that a compromise had been reached whereby the Spring meeting would be postponed and a larger event held in the Fall. Mr. Muldoon said that the event was a success and that the decision to compromise was the right one.**

**Mr. Muldoon reported that the replacement of the lighting in the tunnel is complete. He said that the project will result in energy savings as well as a rebate from National Grid. Mr. Muldoon reported that the carpet leading into the ballroom has been replaced.**

**Mr. Muldoon announced a parking promotion for Holiday shoppers. He said that a \$4.00 rate will be in effect during the Black Friday shopping days and that the promotion is being advertised in the print media as well as in an e-blast. Mr. Butler asked if there is a breakdown of parking revenue associated with events at the Dunk. Mr. Muldoon said that he could do so.**

**Mr. Muldoon noted the inclusion of a rent waiver in the distributed materials for the meeting. He noted that the Convention Center Committee had voted to recommend approval of a waiver for the American Institute of Plant Biologists. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Butler and seconded by Mr. MacDonald it was unanimously**

**VOTED: to approve a rent waiver for the American Institute of Plant**

**Biologists.**

**Mr. Daugherty asked if Mr. Muldoon was seeing an uptick in business.**

**Mr. Muldoon said that there has been a slight upturn in corporate business that is encouraging but the public shows are struggling.**

**Mr. MacDonald thanked Mr. Muldoon and Kathy Masino for a job well done with the International Brotherhood of Carpenters. Mr. Muldoon noted that the event resulted in very good food & beverage revenue.**

## **DUNKIN' DONUTS CENTER**

**Mr. Buonanno reported that the Dunkin' Donuts Center had a wonderful month of October. Mr. Lepore stated that the Jay Z concert was great. He reported that liquor sales were shut down early in an abundance of caution. Mr. Duffy asked if there is any indication of future sales. Mr. Lepore said that high end and lower price shows are selling. Mr. Lepore noted that TSO performed a little early for Christmas and the numbers reflected that. He said that last nights performance was one of the best shows in years and that there is talk of a Spring show which we would like to attract.**

**Mr. Lepore described the new recycling program for the Dunk. He reported that Coca Cola has provided two recycling machines. Mr. Lepore noted that patrons depositing their cans or bottles into the machine are eligible to win event tickets or other prizes as an incentive. Mr. Lepore said that we have already had winners. Mr.**

**Lepore commented that we are taking recycling to a new level for arena. He said that hopefully the public will appreciate what we are trying to do and will cooperate.**

**Mr. Lepore reported that there will be a NASCAR driver competing in the Indoor Car Racing event next week. Mr. Lepore said that there will be a discounted ticket with every donation of a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. Mr. Lepore reported that upcoming events include Shine Down with Puddle of Mud and Carrie Underwood. Mr. McCarvill said that we also have Jeff Dunham performing.**

**Mr. Lepore referring to the Letter to the Editor regarding Spirit of America stated that Brigadier General Horst had offered to visit the school following the incident and was turned down.**

**Mr. Lepore reported that there has been some cracking in the concrete at the front stairs. He said that we hired O'Day, a structural engineer to look at the stairs and provide us with a cause and a solution. Mr. Lepore said that the engineer discovered 4 possible issues. Mr. McCarvill stated that Gilbane is aware of the problem and is working with us on a solution. Mr. MacDonald asked to be kept up to date on the issue. Mr. Lepore stated that the cracking is around the hand rails. Mr. Duffy said that he would like to see the stairs fixed sooner rather than later. Mr. Lepore noted that the problem might get worse at this time of year. Mr. McCarvill said that something went**

wrong when the permanent hand rails were installed. Mr. Duffy said to make the repairs the highest priority.

## VMA

Mr. Habl reported that he is working with Mr. Leach on a rental agreement with folks at the International Film Festival. He said that right now they are renting space at the Columbus Theater. Mr. Duffy asked how rent was established. Mr. Habl said that they will be paying slightly more than they are currently paying. Mr. Habl noted that the VMA will be obtaining some furniture at no cost from Blue Cross. He said that he will rent a truck and pick up the furniture within a couple of days. Mr. MacDonald said that Blue Cross has done a great job in offering furniture to non profits in the State.

Mr. Habl reported on upcoming events. He said that there will be a First Works event as well as the Philharmonic, Chamber Theater, a Hasbro event and John Prine. Mr. Habl noted that Celtic Sojourn was selling a few tickets. Mr. McCarvill asked how the VMA was doing with high school graduations. Mr. Habl said that there is a new field house and therefore we lost four City graduations but picked up two others.

Mr. McCarvill reported that he has been asked to meet with Gary Sasse regarding the VMA. Mr. Duffy said that the State would like to take the building out of its budget. He said that there would have to

**be some bonding with enough to make the repairs.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Mr. McCarvill reported that our litigation regarding the City Ordinance should be heard in January. Mr. Duffy noted that some union members were in attendance and had asked to speak. Chris Cook, a Westin employee, said that things at the Westin are not going well. He said the employees are concerned that if management is allowed to sub contract services at the hotel there would be massive layoffs and what happened in Boston would happen here. He said that some of the staff has been with the hotel since opening. Mr. Cook stated that the City Ordinance would protect us. He said that the union would like to work with the Authority to find a way eliminate the Authority's facilities from the ordinance.**

**Mr. Duffy asked if there was any new business. Hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. MacDonald and seconded by Mr. Daugherty it was unanimously**

**VOTED: to adjourn at 9:50 AM**