

RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
January 26, 2023

---

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 January 26, 2023, pursuant to notice which was posted at the Amica Mutual Pavilion, One LaSalle Square, Providence, RI and the RI Convention Center, One Sabin Street, Providence, RI.

Board members in attendance were Bernie Buonanno, George Nee, Peter Mancini, Paul MacDonald, Patrick Butler, and Jeff Hirsh.

Board members not in attendance were Peri Ann Aptaker, Ed Feldstein, Tony Mendez and Dale Venturini.

Others participating were Daniel McConaghy, Dana Peltier, Linda Maroun and Melissa Lasko O’Connor, Convention Center Authority; Dan Schwartz, VETS; Judy Ferreira and Alan Chille, PFM/VETS; Larry Lepore, Rebecca Ponder, Veronica VanJura, Chris Spolidoro and Cheryl Cohen, Convention Center and AMP; Tom Riel, PWCVB; Bruce Leach, Legal Counsel; Mike Crawley, Citrin Cooperman; and Eileen Smith, Recording Secretary.

**Chairman Buonanno** called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM and asked for approval of the minutes of the December Board meeting. Upon a motion made by **Mr. Butler** and seconded by **Mr. Nee** it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the December Board meeting.

**Mr. Buonanno** asked Mr. Riel (Can you confirm Tom’s attendance? I may be wrong, but I thought Kristen Adamo gave the CVB report.) to address the Board. Mr. Riel was pleased to report that business continues to improve from the Covid months. He said that bookings are up. Mr. Riel credits pent up demand for the increase. He stated that we do well in the renewable energy sector as well as sports groups. Mr. Riel noted that the sales team achieved a 70% pace to year end goal and has exhibited at MASAE annual meeting, IAEE Expo Expo in Louisville and the Holiday Showcase in Chicago. Mr. Riel stated that the CVB has been very busy but it is all good news.

Ms. Cohen presented the marketing report for the AMP. She brought to the Boards attention the monthly marketing report that was included in the Board package. Ms. Cohen stated that family shows continue to do well here. She noted that Disney on Ice was fantastic and now we are preparing for Monster Jam. Ms. Cohen reported that 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cakes were distributed to our media partners. Ms. Cohen described other ways in which we are celebrating 50 years of entertainment. Ms. Cohen stated that our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year will be filled with 50 Acts of Kindness. **Mr. MacDonald** and **Mr. Buonanno** reminisced about being at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Discussion ensued regarding the Army vs Navy Game that will be played at Gillette. Ms. Cohen stated that the cadets will be housed in the Convention Center. She said that planning is underway with the City to make this event a memorable experience for all.

Ms. Cohen continued with the marketing report for the Convention Center. She stated that the Governor's Inauguration went very well. Ms. Cohen reported that Amica is using the building often. She stated that according to their agreement Amica can use the building, rent free, four times per year. She said that a reduced price for food and beverage for those meetings is offered. If the venue is requested at additional times Amica pays the full price. **Mr. Buonanno** asked about her experience working with Amica. Ms. Cohen stated that working with them has been great

Mr. Schwartz said that he would keep the good news rolling. Mr. Schwartz reported on what is going on at the VETS. He presented the new event marketing highlights. Mr. Schwartz stated that our association with the Comedy Connection has served us well. He also stated that doing business with independent promoters has opened new opportunities for the theater.

Mr. Schwartz presented the financial statements for the VETS. Mr. Schwartz reported that there have been some great events at the VETS. He stated that event income is up as a result of Straight No Chaser selling out and better than budgeted sales for the Nutcracker. Mr. Schwartz noted that indirect expenses were higher due to a rate increase in insurance premiums. **Mr. MacDonald** asked if we have spoken with Amica about insurance. Mr. Leach responded that Amica does not provide the insurance that we would be looking for. (Financial Statements attached)

Mr. Lepore reported on the financial statements for the Convention Center, AMP and Clifford Street Garage. Mr. Lepore stated that large food and beverage events have not returned. He said that public shows have dropped off. Mr. Lepore continued that there is no boat or flower show and the car show cancelled because they can't get enough cars. Mr. Lepore stated that parking is less than budget because there are not as many employees working in the City. Event parking is good.

Mr. Lepore reported that although Disney on Ice had several performances in December it finished in January, therefore the revenue will be recognized in January's financial statements. Mr. Lepore noted that we are still having condensation issues in the building. He said that Providence College is threatening to find another venue. This was followed by a lengthy discussion on the science of temperature and humidity. Mr. McConaghy stated that replacing the subfloor should help with the condensation.

Mr. Lepore continued and stated that Clifford Street continues to be a great story. He said that we are better than budget in all categories.

**Mr. MacDonald** departed at 9:45AM

Mr. Lepore announced a promotion for Rebecca Ponder to Director of Sales. Mr. Lepore stated that Becca has excelled in any task that she has been asked undertake. He said it is time for the younger people to be recognized for their accomplishments. The Board congratulated Becca and wished her great success.

Mr. McConaghy reported on the Authority and the consolidated financial statements. Mr. McConaghy noted that the State has categorized our SFRF as an operating subsidy. Mr. McConaghy stated that the OPM has started and that projects are well underway.

Mr. Crawley presented the October Statement of Net Position, Advanced Deposit Funding, Accounts Payable Aging and Accounts Receivable. Mr. Crawley

**Chairman Buonanno** regretfully announced that the Governor had asked for his resignation. He said that he was appointed to the Civic Center Authority by then Mayor Cicilline in 2003. Conversation ensued regarding the difficult times with the arena. **Mr. Buonanno** conceded that to the victor go the spoils. **Mr. Buonanno** wished everyone well and hoped for great success in the future.

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

VOTED: to adjourn at 10:00 AM