

# Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
**Wednesday, August 14, 2024, 11:00am**

Via onsite Employee Lounge and teleconference ~ Savannah Convention Center

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**Members present:** Bert Brantley, Ruth Quattlebaum Edwards, Joe Marinelli, Martin Miller, Anne Scheer, Pritpal Singh (via zoom), Ansley Williams **Members absent:** Pat Farrell, Ben Polote Jr., Mark Smith, and Trip Tollison **Also present:** Paul Threlkeld, Frank Poe(GWCCA), Lindsay Strickland (GWCCA), Kevin Duvall (GWCCA-via zoom), Lee Hughes (Hughes Public Affairs), Yong Choe (YC Consulting-via zoom), Stephen Hall (via Zoom), Evan Lasseter (Savannah Morning News), Gifton Passley (GSFIC), Jeff Bleam (GSFIC), Bobby Cromer (GSFIC), Michael Owens (Tourism Leadership Council), Marc Friday (Planters Inn), Franklin Jones (via zoom) and SCC staff: Kelvin Moore, Ronnie Hickman, Angela Daniels, Jamie Parks, Holly Jenkins, Gail Terrell, Al Rojas and Jackie Mitchell

In the absence of Chairman Smith due to travel, Vice-Chairman Marinelli convened the meeting at 10:58am.

Vice-Chairman Marinelli introduced and welcomed, GWCCA – Vice President/Government Relations, Lindsay Strickland and GWCCA – Executive Director, Frank Poe to the SGCCA board meeting.

Vice-Chairman Marinelli asked for approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's report. Motion made by Mr. Williams; seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Counsel Report. Mr. Threlkeld stated no report at this time.

External Affairs Report. Mr. Hughes commented on the successful meetings and connections held in Washington, DC recently alongside SCC General Manager, Kelvin Moore. Mr. Choe expressed gratitude and appreciation of YC Consulting contract renewal.

Financial Report. Ms. Jenkins reported an unfavorable month for July and forecasted to meet budget at fiscal year-end for the facility. Ms. Jenkins then continued to report a favorable variance to the Authority budget for the month of July and forecasted to meet budget at fiscal year-end for the Authority's budget.

Sales and Marketing Report. Ms. Daniels reviewed the Sales report which included a Sales travel event with Visit Savannah to American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) held in Cleveland, Ohio. Vice-Chairman Marinelli commented on the Savannah booth receiving the Best in Show – 1<sup>st</sup> Place award for best booth. Ms. Daniels continued with a review of contracts for July, highlighting the definite event of global software company, D2L in July 2025. Ms. Daniels reviewed the Pace report, contracted bookings, July event highlights of the Georgia Associations and upcoming calendar events in August, September and October.

Operations Report. Mr. Hickman provided a review of the facility's Hurricane Debby preparations and minor impacts. Mr. Hickman then provided an update of capital projects.

Food & Beverage Report. Mr. Parks reviewed the July F&B financials and July event highlights.

Hotel Update Report. Mr. Moore expressed gratitude to Mr. Hickman for communication with the staff in preparation of the Hurricane. Mr. Moore also expressed 'kudos' to the Visit Savannah and SCC Sales team for a great job at the ASAE event. Mr. Moore commented on a recent hotel development committee meeting held with the SGCCA Executive Committee as well as Mr. Polote Jr., and Mr. Singh with regards to discussion and review of the Convention Center Hotel. Board member, Mr. Ansley Williams to join the hotel development committee moving forward. GWCCA Executive Director, Mr. Poe, commented on pre-

construction services agreement. Mr. Moore provided an overview of the action item pertaining to the Hotel Pre-Development Agreement. Motion by Mr. Brantley; seconded by Ms. Quattlebaum-Edwards and approved by unanimous voice vote.

General Manager's Report. Mr. Moore provided an update on business enhancements to include Corporate Partnerships, Audio Visuals services and Parking Operations. Mr. Moore then presented GWCCA Executive Director, Mr. Frank Poe with expressed gratitude and retirement gifts. Vice-Chairman Marinelli and Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Brantley also vocalized respect for Mr. Poe's leadership and stewardship of GWCCA.

Chairman's Report. Vice-Chairman Marinelli requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. Motion by Mr. Miller; seconded by Mr. Williams and approved by unanimous voice vote. Executive Session convened at 11:43am and ended at 12:22pm. Regular board meeting session reconvened at 12:22pm.

Vice-Chairman Marinelli asked for any other business; hearing none, then adjourned the meeting at 12:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Bert Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer