

# Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
**Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 10:00am**

Via onsite Jasper Boardroom and teleconference ~ Savannah Convention Center

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**Members present:** Bert Brantley, Ruth Quattlebaum Edwards, Pat Farrell, Joe Marinelli, Martin Miller, Anne Scheer, Pritpal Singh, Mark Smith, Ansley Williams **Members absent:** Ben Polote Jr., Trip Tollison  
**Also present:** Paul Threlkeld, Frank Poe(Consultant), Kevin Duvall (GWCCA), Shai Markowicz (Morgan Stanley), Yong Choe (YC Consulting-via zoom), Bobby Knowles (Songy Highroads-via Zoom), Jeff Hewitt, Michael Garcia (Matthews Southwest-via Zoom), Todd Nocerini (Songy Highroads-via Zoom), Stephen Hall (via Zoom), Gifton Passley (via Zoom), Lee Hughes (Hughes Public Affairs), Michael Owens, and SCC staff: Kelvin Moore, Ronnie Hickman, Angela Daniels, Holly Jenkins, Jamie Parks, Myesha Jones, Jackie Mitchell and Al Rojas

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 10:00am.

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

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

External Affairs Report. Mr. Choe informed the board of Senator Warnock's appointment to the Senate Finance Committee and Senator Ossoff's appointment to the Senate Appropriations Committee. In addition to Congressman Buddy Carter's being selected to Chair the House of Energy and Commerce subcommittee in Health. Mr. Hughes commented on the 10-million-dollar request to the State to assist with campus infrastructure.

Financial Report. Ms. Jenkins reported an unfavorable revenue month for the Convention Center and at budget for year to date. Ms. Jenkins then continued to report a favorable revenue variance to the Authority budget and favorable budget year to date.

Hotel Development Report. Mr. Nocerini commented on updated drawings to be provided to the contractor on or about February 17, 2025, with an updated budget to be expected in April 2025. Mr. Nocerini further stated that value engineering items are currently being reviewed. Mr. Nocerini then commented on the possibility of Hilton partnering with a local Chef/Restaurant owner's in a Chef Consultant role.

Operations Report. Mr. Hickman provided a review of completed capital projects, projects in progress and future projects. Mr. Hickman then commented on public space furniture, ferry landing and bulkhead repair.

Sales Report. Ms. Daniels provided a mid-year review to include contracts and rental booking pace.

Event Services Report. Ms. Mitchell provided a mid-year review to include event attendance, event highlights specific to the Annual Smart Women's Expo and Christmas Made in the South with both groups utilizing the expansion space. Ms. Mitchell then reviewed Exhibitor Services business and statistics followed by highlighting a successful meeting/facility tour with several General Services Contractors.

Chairman Report. Chairman Smith reminded the board members of the upcoming Savannah-Chatham Day in Atlanta on January 29, 2025. Vice-Chairman Marinelli commented on a recent trip to Dereecktor Shipyards in Mamaroneck, NY with leaders from Chatham Area Transit (CAT) and Chatham County to christen and launch the two newly built water ferry board which will be able to transport up to 150

passengers per vessel. The new ferry boats are expected to be operational in Savannah mid-late February 2025. Mr. Brantley also commented on a third water ferry boat currently on order as well. Chairman Smith informed the board that Faye DiMassimo, Chief of Planning and Economic Development with the City of Savannah, has confirmed Hutchinson Island is now included in the Transportation Master Plans. Mr. Brantley provided a brief comment on monthly meetings held at the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the NS Savannah ship and the potential for the ship to be docked in Slip 3.

Chairman Smith requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss potential real estate. Motion by Mr. Miller; seconded by Mr. Farrell and approved by unanimous voice vote. Executive Session convened at 10:50am and ended at 11:34am with a motion by Ms. Quattlebaum Edwards; seconded by Ms. Scheer and approved with unanimous voice vote. Regular board meeting session reconvened at 11:34am.

Chairman Smith asked for any other business; hearing none, then adjourned the meeting at 11:34am.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Bert Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer