

Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 11:00am

Via onsite Jasper Boardroom and teleconference ~ Savannah Convention Center

Members present: Bert Brantley, Pat Farrell, Joe Marinelli, Martin Miller, Ben Polote Jr., Anne Scheer, Mark Smith, Trip Tollison, Ruth Quattlebaum **Members absent:** Pritpal Singh, Ansley Williams Also present: Paul Threlkeld (via zoom), Frank Poe (Consultant-via Zoom), Stephen Hall (Consultant-via Zoom), Kevin Duvall (GWCCA), Lee Hughes, Yong Choe (YC Consulting-via zoom), Michael Owens, Michael Kaigler, Bobby Knowles (Songy Highroads-via Zoom), Michael Garcia (Matthews Southwest-via Zoom), Todd Nocerini (Songy Highroads-via Zoom), David Songy, Angela Westerfield (Visit Savannah), Kellie Linder (Visit Savannah), Mayra Smith (Visit Savannah) and SCC staff: Kelvin Moore, Ronnie Hickman, Holly Jenkins, Jackie Mitchell, Al Rojas, Fredia Brady, Myesha Jones, Gail Terrell, Jamie Parks, Staci Stover, Marc McDuffie and Lily Ostrander

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 11:00am.

Chairman Smith asked for approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's report. Motion made by Mr. Polote, Jr.; 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 upcoming visit from Congressman Buddy Carter's office to SCC next week Wednesday August 20, 2025. Mr. Choe also confirmed that the \$4.2 million financial submissions for the riverwalk, and infrastructure improvements submitted by Congressman Carter and Senator Warnock on behalf of SCC are included in the appropriations for review. In addition to commenting on the budget process.

Financial Report. Ms. Jenkins reported the facility as a favorable month for July and positive variance to the year-end budget with net event income, non-event revenue, indirect expenses and net income (loss) all reflecting as favorable. Ms. Jenkins then continued to report favorable expenses and operating income (loss) for the month of July for the Authority with revenue reflecting as unfavorable.

Hotel Development Update. Mr. Nocerini commented on the relocation of the sixty-inch stormwater pipe has started. Mr. Nocerini anticipates that the official notice to proceed will be received during the first week of September. The Land Disturbance Permit (LDP) has been obtained from the city. Chairman Smith commented on future discussions and decisions to be made with regards to a potential collaboration with the City of Savannah of the new greenspace/park concept and the potential deed of International Drive to the Authority. Mr. Nocerini stated that the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) is in place, and they are waiting for the bond sale. Mr. Garcia stated that the Hilton Qualified Management Agreement (QMA) is completed and ready.

Mr. Poe stated that the initial feedback from S&P has been received. Morgan Stanley to receive the rating for review tomorrow. Brief discussion on any potential reimbursement of pre-development costs to the Authority. Timeline for the marketing of bonds approximated to be the following week.

Operations Update. Mr. Hickman provided a review of expansion list updates which included punch list items, warranty items, scheduled work and customer impact items. Mr. Hickman then continued with review of the bulkhead repair updates and hotel pre-work update.

General Manager Update. Mr. Moore commented on the capital projects being paused until the hotel groundbreaking. Mr. Moore also commented on the proactiveness of the Senior Public Safety Manager, Jared Whitehead during the recent incident at Ft. Stewart and preparedness for any potential concerns at SCC. Mr. Moore recognized the Food and Beverage department's high level of service. Food and Beverage recently received scores of five 100's, two 99's and one 96 on the recent Health Inspection. Mr. Moore then highlighted GWCCA Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Duvall, on 23 years of service with GWCCA. Mr. Moore turned the meeting over to Vice-Chairman, Joe Marinelli, who introduced the Visit Savannah team – VP of Sales, Kellie Linder, Director of Meetings Marketing, Mayra Smith and Chief Marketing Officer, Angela Westerfield. The Visit Savannah team provided a presentation of the 2024-2025 Annual Partnership Update.

Chairman's Report. Chairman Smith commented on the upcoming Governor's Tourism Conference on September 24, 2025 to September 26, 2025. The board members to attend a dinner with Governor Kemp on September 25, 2025. Chairman Smith also noted the study committee created by the local Senate on 'How to Make Georgia the Number One State in Tourism' will be in Savannah on September 23, 2025.

Chairman Smith asked for any other business; hearing none, then adjourned the meeting at 12:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bert Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer