Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 11:00am

Via onsite Jasper Boardroom and teleconference ~ Savannah Convention Center

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Members present: Joe Marinelli, Martin Miller, Ben Polote Jr., Mark Smith, Ruth Quattlebaum, Ansley Williams **Members absent**: Pat Farrell, Anne Scheer, Pritpal Singh, Trip Tollison. Also present: Paul Threlkeld (Oliver Maner LLP), Frank Poe (Consultant), Lee Hughes, Yong Choe (YC Consulting-via zoom), Bobby Knowles (via zoom), Andy Paschke (Hilton), Kevin Duvall (GWCCA), Angela Westerfield (Visit Savannah), Kellie Linder (Visit Savannah), Andrew Brailsford (Iron and Oak) and SCC staff: Kelvin Moore, Ronnie Hickman, Jackie Mitchell, Al Rojas, Fredia Brady, Holly Jenkins, Gail Terrell, Myesha Jones, Staci Stover, and Galen MacDonald.

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 11:00 am.

Chairman Smith asked for approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's Report. Motion made by Mr. Marinelli; seconded by Ms. Quattlebaum and approved by unanimous voice vote.

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

External Affairs Report. Mr. Hughes stated that the $1.5 million-dollar federal funding request to help fund the replacement of the two escalators will not be approved in this current fiscal year. Mr. Choe further stated that funding approvals expected to be challenging during an election year. Mr. Hughes commented on 12 bills recently disregarded at the state level; however, tourism continues to be positive. Mr. Hughes also stated that there is a special session on property tax to be held on June 18, 2026. Additionally, The SGCCA will administer the funding attended to the $1.5 million construction of the additional water ferry stop at the west end of River Street. Chatham Area Transit Authority shall be responsible for advancing the water ferry dock project with the assistance of a Stakeholder Steering Committee that will be chaired by a representative from SGCCA. To Chairman Smith's question with regards to the legislative focus for the 2027 session, Mr. Hughes stated that a working list of capital projects to include continuations projects will be the focus.

Financial Report. Ms. Jenkins reported a favorable month for May and favorable-year end for the facility. Ms. Jenkins then continued to report a favorable variance to the Authority budget for the month of May and favorable year-end to Authority budget.

Hotel Development Update. Mr. Knowles provided a construction update and stated that the hotel project continues to be on schedule and on budget. Mr. Poe introduced Mr. Andy Paschke, Senior Director of Sales with Hilton Worldwide.

Board meeting paused for a few minutes when the Georgia Speaker of the House, Jon Burns, entered the board room. Representative Burns expressed gratitude for the investment partnership of SGCCA and the Savannah Convention Center which was verbally reciprocated by the board members and staff.

The board meeting then continued with Mr. Paschke providing a presentation on business volume statistics for the Signia Savannah hotel, including but not limited to current pipeline, prospective rooms nights and leads, commercial updates and team structure. Mr. Paschke highlighted more than 75k prospective room nights currently in the books for the years 2028-2032.

Facility Operations Update. Mr. Hickman then reviewed an action item to replace the HVLS public space fans at a cost of $15,167.10. Motion by Ms. Quattlebaum; seconded by Mr. Polote Jr and approved with unanimous voice vote. Mr. Hickman then reviewed an action item for an additional cost to the chiller replacement in the amount of $98,620 would be drawn from capital funds savings. Motion by Mr. Polote Jr; seconded by Mr. Miller and approved with unanimous voice vote. Mr. Hickman then continued with a review of the action item to create a Riverwalk Design at a cost of $183,600. Brief discussion held. Motion made by Mr. Williams; seconded by Mr. Miller and approved with unanimous voice vote.

General Manager Report. Mr. Moore stated the Vice-Chairman Marinelli to provide the annual 2025-2026 Visit Savannah and Savannah Convention Center partnership update. Vice-Chairman Marinelli, Chief Marketing Officer (Visit Savannah), Angela Westerfield and VP of Sales (Visit Savannah), Kellie Linder, presented an update including but not limited to the Meeting Marketing Plan, Business Development and Savannah Awards such as Cvent, Prevue, Meetings Today, Smart Meetings and Convention South.

Mr. Moore expressed gratitude of Visit Savannah's Marketing and Sales team efforts and partnership with SCC.

New Business Report. Mr. Threlkeld informed the board of the election of SGCCA Officers and Executive Committee. Motion made by Mr. Williams to elect Mr. Polote Jr. as the new Secretary/Treasurer due to Mr. Brantley's resignation as a SGCCA board member due to his recent appointment by Governor Kemp to the Georgia Transportation Efficiency Authority Board. Motion seconded by Ms. Quattlebaum; approved by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Quattlebaum then made a motion to retain the same SGCCA officers, Mr. Mark Smith, Chairman, Mr. Joe Marinelli, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Polote Jr., Secretary/Treasurer for FY 2027. Motion seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Moore reminded the board to review and sign the provided conflict of interest and per diem forms.

Chairman Report. Mr. Smith commented on the July Board meeting to be held July 8, 2026, at 11:00am.

Mr. Smith asked for any other business; hearing none, then adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Polote, Secretary/Treasurer