



Capital Region Development Authority

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**CRDA Venue Committee Conference Call
Meeting Minutes
Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Friday, October 13, 2017
2:00 PM**

Members Present: Venue Committee Chair Andy Bessette, Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood (via phone), and Sean Fitzpatrick (via phone)

Staff: Executive Director Mike Freimuth, Anthony Lazzaro, Kim Hart

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Bessette and the minutes of the June 7, 2017 meeting were approved on a voice vote.

Mr. Freimuth briefed the Committee on the following:

1. XL Center

- a. Events – We have three larger concerts scheduled at XL this fall – Roger Waters, Guns N’ Roses and Dead & Company. The Wolfpack 2017-18 season has begun, while UConn hockey will begin later this month.
- b. MSG – CRDA continues to meet and exchange correspondence with Madison Square Garden in regard to extending the Wolfpack contract, which is set to expire after this season.
- c. Naming Rights – Global is engaged in discussions with XL on a new naming rights agreement. Questions about the status the transformation project and the future of the building have been raised in those discussions.
- d. UConn XL Lease – The license governing UConn’s use of the XL Center is also set to expire in the spring and CRDA will need to begin discussions with the University.
- e. Capital Projects – Security and elevator work is continuing in the XL Center and Church Street Garage. Metal detectors have been ordered for XL and will be installed sometime this season.

- f. State Budget – CRDA is awaiting adoption of a State budget and bond package to know where XL stands in terms of operational funding and the transformation project. Proposals to impose the State’s admission tax on the currently-exempt XL Center have raised serious concerns. CRDA staff continues to meet with Spectra to discuss budget issues and financial strategies moving forward.
- g. Public-Private Financing RFQ – Additional financial information was provided to the bidder and we currently await a detailed proposal from them.

2. Pratt & Whitney Stadium

- a. Soccer – The Stadium netted close to \$80,000 on the New York City FC game held on September 22rd, the same weekend as the rescheduled UConn football game. Spectra did an outstanding job turning the building over between events.
- b. UConn Football – Three games have been held so far this season, including a rescheduled event to replace the game lost due to the Florida hurricane. Attendance has only averaged about 14,000, which will significantly impact parking, as well as food and beverage revenue.

3. Connecticut Convention Center

- a. State Budget – The State’s current budget situation is impacting CTCC’s ability to book events. Funding uncertainty in other State agencies has limited the availability of State boxing and MMA referees and may limit the Center’s ability to secure hotel rooms for upcoming events.

4. Dillon Stadium

- a. RFP – CRDA has received three responses to its RFP for the upgrade / redevelopment of Dillon Stadium. Staff will be meeting with Mr. Fitzpatrick and other City economic development officials next week to discuss next steps. Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested that the Committee hold some type of public forum on the project, similar to that held for the XL Center last fall. Members agreed and Mr. Freimuth suggested that such forum should be held in lieu of the Committee’s November meeting.

- 5. Tennis Center – Mr. Freimuth noted that we do not yet have final numbers on the 2017 Tournament. Tennis Center staff are currently meeting with potential sponsors for next year’s event.

The next meeting/conference call of the Venue Committee is scheduled for November 3, 2017, however, it may be superseded by the Dillon Stadium public forum.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.