

**CRDA Venue Committee Conference Call
Meeting Minutes
Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
June 1, 2018
2:00 PM**

Members Present Via Phone: Committee Chair Andy Bessette, Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood, Mike Matteo and Kiley Gosselin

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. and the minutes of the April 6, 2018 meeting were approved on a voice vote.

1. **Dillon Stadium** – Mr. Saint updated Committee members on the construction manager selection process for Dillon. A preferred bidder was selected earlier today and they will be meeting with representatives of CRDA and Hartford Sports Group (HSG) on Monday. It is hoped that a contract will be signed shortly thereafter.

Mr. Lazzaro and Mr. Saint outlined current budget and scheduling issues on the project, highlighting key decision dates over the next few months. In the event that HSG is unable to secure a team or is unable to move forward for any reason, Mr. Freimuth suggested that CRDA would proceed with installation of the new turf field and other renovations at Dillon in order to provide for greater community use and to preserve the Stadium's ability to host another pro team in the future. Ms. Gosselin cautioned that in the event we need to implement this "fall-back plan", it must comply with the terms of funding outlined in the State Bond Commission resolution approving the \$10 million for Dillon.

2. **Convention Center** – Mr. Freimuth noted that CRDA has requested bond funding for Front Street plaza repairs. The next Bond Commission meeting is expected to be held in July.
3. **Pratt & Whitney Stadium** – As reported at the last Board meeting, the new grass playing field is in place.

4. **XL Center** – Mr. Freimuth reported that he met this week with State Senate Republican Leader Len Fasano about CRDA’s possible use of eminent domain to secure needed space for the XL Center. The issue is expected to be taken up at this month’s Board meeting.

5. **Tennis Center** – Mr. Lazzaro gave a general overview of the agreement transferring the tournament sanction to the Connecticut Tennis Foundation.

The next meeting of the Venue Committee is scheduled for July 6, 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39.

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