

100 Columbus Boulevard Suite 500 Hartford, CT 06103-2819 Tel (860) 527-0100 Fax (860) 527-0133 www.crdact.net

# **CRDA Venue Committee**

# Cancellation notice

The CRDA Venue Committee meeting scheduled for Friday, August 7, 2015 has been cancelled.

CoRoDoA

Capital Region

Development Authority

100 Columbus Boulevard Suite 500 Hartford, CT 06103-2819 Tel (860) 527-0100 Fax (860) 527-0133 www.crdact.net

CRDA Venue Committee Conference Call Minu....
Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Friday, October 2, 2015
2:00 PM

#### PRESENT ON CALL:

Directors Present: Venue Committee Chair Andy Bessette

**Directors Via Phone:** Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood, Commissioner Catherine Smith, David Jorgensen

Staff: Executive Director Mike Freimuth, Tony Lazzaro and Kim Hart

The meeting was called to order at 2:20 pm by Chairman Bessette and the minutes of the September meetings were approved.

Executive Director Freimuth briefly updated Committee members on various pending issues:

- 1. **UConn:** The XL Center short term lease and the Stadium lease amendment have been finalized and are awaiting signature by the respective parties. CRDA and UConn are close to finalizing a letter of intent for a long-term deal at the XL Center if and when the State moves forward with renovation of the building. That deal includes an annual total of 30 games, made up of men's and women's basketball and all Hockey East games.
- 2. **XL Center Long-Range Planning** SCI Architects is tightening up numbers on their cost estimate for transforming the facility. Preliminary estimates indicate that we are in the range of the \$250 million number that has been discussed. Work is expected to take three off-seasons, with back-of-house work being done during the season when possible. The feasibility of including a co-gen facility is also being discussed.

In preparation for negotiations with Northland, a competitive selection process is underway for an appraiser to value the space needed to expand XL.

- 3. Church Street Garage Work is currently underway to correct safety issues in the garage.
- **4. MSG Discussions** Mr. Freimuth reported that he and representatives of Spectra recently met with MSG to discuss the Wolfpack franchise agreement. We are currently in Year 3 of a five-year deal and MSG does have an option to opt out under

the agreement. MSG reported that they are comfortable moving forward with Years 4 and 5.

- 5. **Pratt & Whitney Stadium** Spectra has reported that "per caps" for the first three UConn home football games this season have been higher than expected, however, lower than expected attendance will hurt us financially,
  - Mr. Jorgensen indicated that he has spoken with officials at the new Major League Football league looking to play at the Stadium and believes this is something we should seriously consider. He offered to set up a meeting with Venue Committee members and League representatives.
- 6. Convention Center Mr. Freimuth reported that that the Convention Center's schedule is quiet at the moment, but will pick up moving into the fall and winter. The building had a good first quarter and seems to be on track budget-wise. Mr. Bessette noted that he recently attended the "Forty Under Forty" event in the building and was very impressed with the food served.
- 7. Tennis Center A financial summary sheet for the 2015 tournament has been distributed. At its October meeting, the CRDA Board opted to move forward with the 2016 tournament.

The next meeting of the Venue Committee is scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

100 Columbus Boulevard Suite 500 Hartford, CT 06103-2819 Tel (860) 527-0100 Fax (860) 527-0133 www.crdact.net

CRDA Venue Committee Conference Call Minutes
Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Friday, November 6, 2015
2:00 PM

#### PRESENT ON CALL:

**Directors Via Phone:** Venue Committee Chair Andy Bessette, Commissioner Catherine Smith, David Jorgensen and Mike Matteo

Guests Via Phone: Chris Lawrence (Spectra)

Staff: Executive Director Mike Freimuth, Tony Lazzaro and Kim Hart

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by Chairman Bessette and the minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Executive Director Freimuth briefly updated Committee members on various pending issues:

- UConn: The XL Center short term lease has been signed and is now awaiting approval from the Attorney General's office. One issue remains on the letter of intent for a long-term deal in the building -- CRDA and UConn are still working to resolve the question of how the direct sale of premium seating by the XL Center will affect the University's donor points system. Stafford Sports is assisting CRDA with those discussions. Per the Governor's request, the LOI should be wrapped up by the start of the 2016 legislative session.
- SCI and Northland CRDA staff are reviewing SCI Architects' cost estimates for transforming the XL Center. Hard construction costs are estimated at \$230 million, but this does not include soft costs or acquisition of additional space needed for the renovation.

The additional space has been identified and an appraiser is currently working to estimate its value in anticipation of discussions with Northland. Mr. Freimuth indicated that he has shared the plans with Northland and is awaiting a response.

The Committee anticipates approaching the General Assembly in early 2016 in order to request the funds necessary for space acquisition, as well as for development of construction design documents.

- 3. Indoor Soccer Update Mr. Lawrence reported that the MASL has severed ties with the group bringing indoor soccer to the XL Center in light of the group's problems with the City on the Dillon Stadium deal. The team will not play at XL this season, however, another local ownership group is rumored to be interested in stepping in next year.
- 4. UConn Hockey and Wolfpack Updates Mr. Lawrence reported that after three games, UConn hockey attendance is down about 750 people per game. He noted, however, that it is still early in season and one of the three games conflicted with a UConn basketball event in Storrs.

Mr. Freimuth reported that he is expecting a letter from MSG any day now confirming the Wolfpack's intention to remain at XL for Year 4 and possibly Year 5 of their contract. The team seems happy with the venue and its management, as well as with Hartford in general.

- 5. Church Street Garage Mr. Freimuth reported that cleaning, painting and safety improvement work continues at the Church Street Garage. XL events are being more closely linked with the Garage and Spectra is looking at selling additional advertising space in the facility. Spectra is also working with Hartford Police to get patrons out of the Garage more efficiently.
- 6. **UConn Football Update** Mr. Lawrence reported that with one game left in the season, attendance numbers remain a serious concern and are expected to hurt the Stadium financially. A discussion followed as to whether UConn was doing all it could to promote the games and what steps Board members might take to help.
- 7. **Minor League Football Update** Mr. Freimuth reported that Chairman Bessette, Mr. Jorgensen, Mr. Lawrence and CRDA staff met with officials from the MLF to discuss the possibility of bringing a team to Pratt & Whitney Stadium in the Spring. The League seems very interested in this market and Spectra has provided them with expense estimates for playing in the building.

The next meeting of the Venue Committee is scheduled for Friday, December 4, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

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CRDA Venue Committee Conference Call Minutes
Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Friday, December 4, 2015
2:00 PM

#### PRESENT ON CALL:

**Directors Via Phone:** Venue Committee Chair Andy Bessette, CRDA Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood, Commissioner Catherine Smith, David Jorgensen and Darrell Hill

Guests Via Phone: Chris Lawrence (Spectra)

Staff: Executive Director Mike Freimuth and Kim Hart

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by Chairman Bessette and the minutes of the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved on a voice vote.

Executive Director Freimuth briefly updated Committee members on various pending issues:

1. XL Reconstruction Project – Preliminary cost estimates show hard construction costs for the XL Center project to be approximately \$235 million. Design costs will need to be figured in, as well as costs related to site acquisition and reconfiguration of University of St. Joseph space within the building. Our appraiser is working to determine the value of the space needed from Northland, with partial building versus full building acquisition scenarios being weighed. Mr. Freimuth has had a preliminary meeting with Northland and additional meetings have been scheduled.

The Committee anticipates approaching the General Assembly in early 2016 in order to request the funds necessary for site acquisition, as well as for development of construction design documents.

2. UConn: One issue remains on the letter of intent for a long-term UConn presence at the XL Center. CRDA and UConn are still working to resolve the question of how the direct sale of premium seating by the XL Center will affect the University's donor points system. Stafford Sports is assisting CRDA with those discussions. Per the Governor's request, the LOI should be wrapped up by the start of the 2016 legislative session.

Committee members discussed UConn attendance numbers at both the XL Center and the Stadium and concerns were raised about UConn's ticket sale operation and the

need for the University and these venues to work cooperatively to increase ticket sales. Committee members expressed an interest in meeting with President Herbst and Carl Hirsh from Stafford Sports to discuss this issue in depth. Chairman Bessette will reach out to the University to schedule that meeting.

- 3. UConn Hockey and Wolfpack Updates Mr. Lawrence reported that attendance and revenue numbers for both UConn Hockey and Wolfpack are expected to increase as the teams move into the second half of their seasons.
- 4. UConn Football Update Attendance numbers were up from last season, however, the Stadium is still expected to end the year with a deficit. UConn has been apprised of the situation.
- 5. **CT Convention Center** Mr. Freimuth reported that the Convention Center is looking to trim its budget in light of anticipated State funding reductions.
- 6. CT Tennis Center The 2015 tournament finished in the black, due in part to significant State sponsorship. State funding reductions are likely impact this facility as well, though to what extent is not yet known.
- 7. Food and Beverage Sales Report Mr. Lawrence walked Committee members through data compiled by Spectra Food Services on year-to-date food and beverage sales at XL and the Stadium. Sales are up from last year due to a number of factors, including concession menu upgrades, new premium seating areas, new credit/debit card capabilities in the concession stands and event mix.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Venue Committee is January 1, 2016, however, in light of the holiday, members agreed to reschedule the meeting to Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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CRDA Venue Committee Conference Call Minutes
Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Friday, January 8, 2015
2:00 PM

#### PRESENT:

**Members Present** – Venue Committee Chair Andy Bessette, CRDA Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood

Members Via Phone - Commissioner Catherine Smith, David Jorgensen and Mike Matteo

Guests Via Phone: Chris Lawrence and Casey Heverling (Spectra)

Staff: Executive Director Mike Freimuth, Bob Saint, Joe Geremia and Kim Hart

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by Chairman Bessette and the minutes of the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved on a voice vote.

Executive Director Freimuth updated Committee members on various pending issues:

1. <u>XL Security Upgrades</u> – Mr. Freimuth reported that CRDA has requested the \$1.5 million balance of the \$35 million in XL Center renovation funds from the State Bond Commission. The Commission's next meeting is on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

A portion of these funds will be used for security upgrades in the facility. Security systems, including existing cameras and entrance controls, are known to be lacking and immediate changes are needed to adequately secure the facility. Mr. Saint reported that CRDA is working with Bob Ducibella, a Connecticut-based security consultant recommended by both SCI (the architect working on the XL reconstruction) and JCJ (the architect used for the renovation work). CRDA is recommending a phased approach, with certain upgrades done now and a more comprehensive security program included in the reconstruction project.

Mr. Freimuth noted that operationally, additional law enforcement personnel have been added and new pat down and bag check procedures have been implemented following the events in Paris in mid-November. These steps, however, have significantly increased event costs and slowed access into the building, prompting complaints from some patrons.

Mr. Lawrence reported that the XL Center continues to work closely with the Hartford Police Department to ensure the safety of patrons. He also noted – in response to a

- question from Committee members that patrons are being alerted to the new security procedures via the XL Center's website and through the UConn Athletic Department.
- 2. <u>UConn LOI for XL</u> Mr. Freimuth reported that a Letter of Intent has been signed with UConn for a long-term presence in a reconstructed XL Center should such a facility be built.
- 3. XL Reconstruction Project Mr. Freimuth also reported that a number of meetings have been held with Northland related to acquisition of all or part of their building adjacent to the XL Center to allow for reconstruction of the arena. An analysis of the various acquisition options, as well cost analyses of each, are being conducted by both parties.
  - Mr. Freimuth noted that it is CRDA's intention to approach the Legislature this session for funding to cover the cost of building design and Northland site acquisition, including required St. Joseph improvements.
- 4. <u>XL Team Updates</u> Mr. Lawrence reported that overall, the Wolfpack and UConn teams are not performing to budget and Spectra hopes to see attendance and revenue numbers increase as the teams move into the second half of their seasons. Lower than expected attendance (particularly for UConn Hockey), higher security costs (discussed earlier in the meeting) and the loss of advertising revenue to IMG have all significantly impacted the facility's budget. The postponement of a Janet Jackson concert until next fiscal year due to the singer's surgery will also negatively impact the budget.
- 5. Pratt & Whitney Stadium Mr. Freimuth reported that CRDA is looking to include an \$800,000 authorization for the Stadium on an upcoming Bond Commission agenda and that funds will be used for the clearing of a 10-acre wooded parcel acquired as part of the UTC/Pratt naming rights deal. Such area is needed as the lots previously leased from UTC for overflow parking are being torn up as part of the outlet mall construction at Rentschler Field.
- 6. <u>Convention Center</u> Mr. Freimuth reported that the Convention Center continues to experience a slow year in terms of event scheduling.
- CT Tennis Center Mr. Geremia gave members a preview of the Tennis Center's 2016 budget, which will be presented in detail to the CRDA Board at its January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 8. <u>State Budget Impact</u> Mr. Freimuth reported that he will be recommending cuts to certain CRDA programs in light of the FY17 reduction in State funding to the agency. This will also be a topic of discussion at the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Venue Committee is February 5, 2016

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

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CRDA Venue Committee Conference Call Minu...

Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Friday, February 5, 2015
2:00 PM

#### PRESENT:

Members Via Phone - Venue Committee Chair Andy Bessette, Sean Fitzpatrick

Guests Via Phone: Chris Lawrence (Spectra)

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by Chairman Bessette.

## **Venue Updates**

## a. XL Center

- i. Long Term Reconstruction Project Mr. Freimuth reported that in light of the current state budget situation, the Governor is deferring the decision to put new funds into the capital budget for the XL or its long term transformation at this time. He has, however, given CRDA the discretion to use bond funds previously authorized for the agency for (1) land acquisition, (2) design work and (3) capital improvements that would serve the current building as well as be retained in any future improved building (e.g., ice repair).
- ii. Northland Mr. Freimuth reported that he is meeting with Northland representatives next week to continue discussions regarding acquisition of all or part of the Trumbull block. Mr. Freimuth sees three options available: (1) purchase of the atrium, (2) purchase of the atrium and those small slivers of the building needed for reconstruction and (3) purchase of the whole Trumbull block (the preferred option). Under each of these options, the garage would remain with Northland, however, CRDA would look to acquire approximately 40 parking spaces to allow for expansion of the arena concourse. Cost estimates for the project are currently being developed.
- iii. AAC Men's Basketball Tournament Mr. Lawrence reported that the XL Center will host the 2017 AAC tournament and that Spectra is working on an MOU to memorialize the deal. He noted that the working group who organized the 2015 tournament, including representatives of the City, is expected to

reconvene shortly. The St. Patrick's Day Parade and the cheerleading convention at CTCC will again provide challenges to organizing the event. An announcement regarding the tournament is expected to be made at the February 18<sup>th</sup> UConn basketball game.

iv. <u>Security Upgrades</u> – Mr. Freimuth reported that the balance of the \$35 million for XL renovations was approved by the State Bond Commission on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The bulk of this \$1.5 million will be used for much-needed security upgrades at the Xl Center.

#### b. Rentschler Field

- i. <u>Roadwork</u> Mr. Freimuth reported that CRDA is working with UTC's developer on construction of a new roadway that will service both the Stadium and the new outlet mall at Rentschler Field. Some \$7 million in State bond funds secured by OPM are being utilized for the project.
- ii. Parking Lot The Bond Commission also approved \$775,000 for construction of a new Stadium parking lot on 10 acres recently acquired by the State as part of the Pratt & Whitney naming rights deal. The lot, which will provide an additional 1,000 parking spaces, should be completed in time for the 2016 football season.

#### c. Tennis Center

i. <u>Capital Upgrades</u> – The Bond Commission also approved \$1.2 million for interior renovations and utility upgrades at the CT Tennis Center. Work will include construction of new offices, renovation of the media center and players' lounge and electrical, water and sewer upgrades.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32.

The next meeting of the Venue Committee is scheduled for Friday, March 4th at 2:00.



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CRDA Venue Committee Conference Call Minu...

Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Friday, March 6, 2015
2:00 PM

## PRESENT ON CALL:

**Directors (via phone):** Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood, Dave Jorgensen, Mike Matteo, Floyd Green and Commissioner Catherine Smith

Directors (present): Committee Chair Andy Bessette,

**Staff:** Executive Director Mike Freimuth, Bob Saint, Anthony Lazzaro, Joe Geremia and Kim Hart

Guests (via phone): Chris Lawrence (Global Spectrum), Darrell Hill (City of Hartford)

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm by Committee Chair Bessette. The minutes of the December 12, 2014 meeting were approved with two corrections.

- 1. XL Center Construction Mr. Freimuth reported that renovation work is winding down. We have spent \$33 million of the \$35 million authorization, with the remaining \$2 million being held in contingency for any emergency repairs. The doors into the arena bowl have finally been removed and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. The building has had some issues with frozen pipes originating in Northland space bursting and flooding parts of the building. The ice system is holding up.
- 2. Church Street Garage Mr. Freimuth reported that three "clouds" still remain on the title and until these are resolved by the City, CRDA cannot move ahead with the garage purchase.
- 3. Common Area Maintenance Issues Mr. Freimuth reported that he met with representatives of Northland last week and the parties continue to work to resolve the issue of monthly charges. Mr. Freimuth has recommended that Global take over maintenance of the so-called "Hilton" elevator, as well as the atrium escalator in order to ensure they are in working order for XL Center events.
- 4. UConn Lease Negotiations CRDA, Global and UConn have reached agreement on the terms of Year I of an XL Center lease, however, the parties still need to work out the terms for subsequent years. IMG sponsorship revenue remains an issue.

- 5. Mixed Martial Arts Legislation Mr. Freimuth reported that Global Spectrum and Waterford Management attended a legislative public hearing on a bill removing a significant financial obstacle to scheduling mixed martial arts events in the State. Both the XL Center and Convention Center have lost events due to language in the current law. CRDA will continue to monitor this legislation as it makes its way through the legislative process.
- 6. AAC Men's Basketball Tournament Mr. Lawrence reported that the building is in good shape for the tournament and that nearly \$2.0 million in tickets have been sold, a number higher than originally projected. Global is heading up a planning group comprised of City and State officials, as well as local business representatives, that has been working on traffic, parking and St. Patrick's Day parade coordination issues for months.

Mr. Green asked whether notices would be sent to local corporations urging them to support the event and Mr. Lawrence indicated he would draft something for distribution.

- 7. Report on XL Center Feasibility Study SCI Architects and Stafford Sports will be in Hartford next week to discuss next steps in the XL Center planning process. Critical tasks include negotiating MOU's with UConn, Northland, St. Joseph's and the YMCA. How the plan should be presented to the public will also be a topic of discussion.
- 8. **Tennis Center** Mr. Geremia presented the Tennis Center's FY14 independent audit and 2015 tournament budget to the Committee. He noted that the report was "favorable" and that the facility ended the year with a \$400k surplus.

Mr. Freimuth reminded members that per our agreement with the Tennis Center, CRDA needs to formally authorize moving ahead with the 2016 tournament based on these two documents. Should questions or concerns arise following the 2015 tournament, CRDA could reconsider such authorization. A motion was made and seconded recommending authorization of the 2016 tournament. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

The next meeting of the Venue Committee falls on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Good Friday. Committee members will be asked about their availability for an April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting via email. Mr. Freimuth noted that there is no Board Meeting scheduled for April and Committee members may want to cancel the Venue Committee meeting as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.



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CRDA Venue Committee Conference Call Minutes
Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Friday, May 1, 2015
2:00 PM

#### PRESENT ON CALL:

**Directors (via phone):** Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood, Dave Jorgensen and Commissioner Catherine Smith

Staff: Executive Director Mike Freimuth, Bob Saint and Kim Hart

Guests (via phone): Casey Heverling (Global Spectrum)

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm by Board Chair Hopgood. In the absence of a quorum, approval of the minutes of the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was tabled for the next Venue Committee meeting.

Executive Director Freimuth briefly updated Committee members on various pending issues:

- 1. Church Street Garage The City and CRDA are close to resolving the remaining issues holding up the sale of the garage.
- 2. Common Area Maintenance Issues CRDA and Northland have agreed on a split of monthly CAM charges moving forward, however, the parties still need to reach agreement on back charges owed to Northland by the XL Center.
- 3. XL Center Long-Range Planning SCI Architects has given CRDA a scope for the next phase of their work. Funds to cover this work will come out of the \$2 million remaining in the original \$35 million XL Center bond request. A request for these funds, as well as for another \$300,000 for additional repair work at XL, will be included on the May State Bond Commission agenda. Mr. Freimuth hopes to have a plan for XL drafted and publically vetted for presentation to the General Assembly in early 2016.
- 4. **Tennis Center** The Tennis Center's Board of Directors met this week and concerns were raised regarding lower than expected sponsorship commitments for this year's tournament.

- 5. Convention Center Waterford presented the FY16 Convention Center budget to the CRDA Finance Committee this week. Net revenues are expected to be lower than in years past due to the cyclic nature of certain events and the cancellation of others. In addition, the budget currently being debated by the General Assembly reduces the Center's FY16 appropriation by some \$350,000. Should that budget be adopted, the Center will need to tap reserve funds to cover the shortfall.
- **6. Stadium at Rentschler Field** Global Spectrum presented the Stadium budget to the Finance Committee this week as well. Net revenues are down for FY16, but the facility should break even with the UConn contribution mandated in the new Stadium lease.

Mr. Heverling reported on the AAC Men's Basketball Championship held at the XL Center in March. The event was a great success, with net revenues of approximately \$600,000, well above the \$250,000 event estimate. UConn's participation in the tournament through the final round was critical to the success of the event, as was the planning group comprised of City, State and local business representatives who helped with City-wide logistics.

Mr. Heverling also reported on the International Champions Cup soccer game between FC Porto and ACF Fiorentina scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup> at Rentschler Field. Global Spectrum is working with the promoter to garner interest in the game, increase attendance and secure sponsorships. This effort will include reaching out to the local corporate community.

Ms. Hart briefly updated members on the status of Mixed Martial Arts legislation pending before the General Assembly, which would help bring MMA events to both XL and the Convention Center. This legislation is currently awaiting a vote in the State Senate.

The next meeting of the Venue Committee is scheduled for June 5, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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CRDA Venue Committee Conference Call
Meeting Minutes
Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Friday, June 10, 2016
2:00 PM

## PRESENT:

Members Present: Venue Committee Chair Andy Bessette, Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood, Sean Fitzpatrick

Guests Via Phone: Chris Lawrence and Casey Heverling (Spectra)

Staff: Executive Director Mike Freimuth, Deputy Director Anthony Lazzaro and Robert Saint

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm by Chairman Bessette and the minutes of the April 1, 2016 meeting was approved by voice vote. Mr. Freimuth gave the following update regarding the status of the CRDA venues and the various projects associated therewith.

#### 1. XL Center

Event Update – On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the XL Center hosted the P&G Gymnastics Championships and Secret U.S. Classic. More than 16,200 people attended the three-day event, including an XL Center single day record of 11,771 people during Saturday's sessions. The event outperformed budget estimates by more than \$250,000. The Venue Committee expressed its desire to see the business community get more involved with this event; accordingly, a meeting will be scheduled with the Metro Hartford Alliance to explore this effort.

<u>Capital Improvements</u> – While the long-term transformation project has been put on hold, additional work is being done to address critical needs in the short term:

<u>Ice Floor</u> – A tentative work schedule and cost estimates have been formulated for the potential replacement of the arena floor and ice piping next summer, pending the State Bond Commission's approval of funding. The project cost is \$2,500,000.

<u>Elevators</u> – Design work is underway on the modernization of four elevators at XL and the Church Street garage, including the XL Center service elevator. CRDA is in the process of requesting bond funding in the amount of \$1,750,000 for this project.

<u>Security</u> – Design of the new security camera upgrade project is also underway. Based upon the assessment of the current system, the project cost is estimated to be \$500,000. This project will be included in CRDA's bond request for July, 2016.

## 2. Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field

<u>New Roadwork</u> – Work is proceeding on the new parking lot and roadway servicing both the Stadium and the planned development at Rentschler Field.

<u>Building Management System</u> – Utilizing funds received from the State's "Lead by Example" program, Rentschler installed a new building management system, which resulted in 35% reduction in utility costs during the heating and cooling months.

#### 3. Convention Center

## Capital Improvements/Repairs

<u>Cooling Towers</u> – In May, the Convention Center experienced the loss of one of its cooling towers due to the catastrophic failure of the tower's fan system. Repairs have been completed and steps are being taken to prevent such an event in the future.

<u>Elevators</u> – The elevators in the Convention Center parking garage are in need of some major repairs. We are currently working with our Contractors to review and design the repairs.

Box Office - Construction of the new box office will be undertaken this fall.

#### 4. Tennis Center

<u>Capital Improvements</u> – The TFC has reevaluated its capital plan to focus more specifically on reducing operating costs, generating additional revenue, and the Tennis Center less reliant on State subsidies. Such improvements will reduce the need to rent trailers, utility equipment, and tents.

#### 5. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM