

CRDA Venue Committee Meeting
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2021
2:00

Members Present via GoToMeeting: Committee Chair Andy Bessette, Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood, David Jorgensen, Andrew Diaz-Matos and David Robinson

Staff Present via GoToMeeting: Mike Freimuth, Anthony Lazzaro, Joe Geremia, Jennifer Gaffey and Kim Hart

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Board Chair Hopgood and the minutes of the September 10, 2021 meeting were approved on a voice vote.

I. **Venue Updates** – Ms. Hart offered the following updates:

1. **XL Center** – UConn Men’s Hockey has played two home games this season, averaging 1,739 fans per game, with total per caps averaging \$14.82. The Hartford Wolfpack have played 4 games are averaging 1,791, with very strong per caps averaging \$16.64.

The U.S. Women vs. Canada Hockey game held on October 25th saw 3,400 fans with \$16.40 per caps. Upcoming events include a WWE Smackdown on November 19th, a rap show on December 14th and the Harlem Globetrotters on December 26th.

2. **Pratt & Whitney Stadium** – UConn football has played five of its six home games of the season, with gate attendance averaging 7,360 and total per caps about \$11. The team’s last home game against Houston is scheduled for November 27th.

As noted at our last Board meeting, Populous has begun their Stadium building assessment with a review of game day operations earlier this month.

3. **CT Convention Center** – As noted at our last Board meeting, we are awaiting Bond Commission approval on funding for replacement of the CUP cooling tower and installation of a much-needed second elevator.
Repair work on the plaza between the Convention Center and Marriott Hotel is ongoing.

The annual home show will be in the building this weekend.

4. **Dillon Stadium** – Hartford Athletic finished their regular season with an average of 2,200 fans per game.

Mr. Jorgensen noted that he had attended the US-Canada hockey game at the XL Center and expressed concerns about the building's sound system, which had failed during the game. Mr. Freimuth noted that CRDA was aware of the problem and that the system was at the end of its useful life, having been installed during the 2014 XL renovation. Mr. Weiss indicated that a temporary fix was in place, but the system will need to be replaced in the near future.

II. **Executive Session for Real Estate Transaction Issue**

On a voice vote, the Committee approved moving into Executive Session at 2:15.

Upon completion of the Executive Session, the Committee returned to its regular meeting and adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The next Venue Committee conference call is scheduled for **December 3, 2021.**