

**Capital Region Development Authority
CRDA Executive and Finance Committee
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Friday, June 9, 2023
1:00pm – Teams Meeting
(The Meeting was held via Teams with public access)**

Board Members Present: Andy Bessette; Paul Hinsch

CRDA Staff Present: Executive Director Michael Freimuth; CFO Joseph Geremia

Guests: Michael Costelli, CTCC; Stephanie Clarke, CTCC; Michele Hughes, CTCC; Ben Weiss, OVG360; Pearson Davis, OVG360; Derek Miles, OVG360; Aileen Sheluck, OVG360; Charles Tillem, OVG360; Jonathan Bostic, ProPark; Trisha d'Oliveira, ProPark

Draft Committee Minutes

The minutes from the May 24, 2022 CRDA Executive and Finance Committee were moved by Andy Bessette, seconded by Paul Hinsch and approved.

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

Mr. Geremia gave an update on the budget process, noting that CRDA prepares or reviews thirteen budgets. Mr. Geremia explained that all budgets being presented are subject to available funding and appropriations from the State of Connecticut and all budgets are fully funded. Mr. Geremia thanked the staff of the venue management companies for their work in the preparation of their respective venue budgets.

The following draft budgets were presented:

- *CT Convention Center (CTCC)*
 - The CTCC budget was presented by Mike Costelli. He provided a convention industry update noting that post pandemic convention business is expected to return between 2025 and 2026. He also discussed Fiscal Year 2024 event statistics.
- *Convention Services Subsidy*
 - Committee members voice their support for increased funding in this program to assist bringing events to downtown Hartford.
- *XL Center*
 - The XL Center budget was presented by Ben Weiss. He provided an update on collegiate sports and concert scheduling. He also noted an increase in Hartford Wolfpack group sales and noted that this budget contains net income of \$100,000 related to the newly constructed sports lounge.
- *P&W Stadium at Rentschler Field*
 - Ben Weiss presented and noted this budget relies on increased football attendance and two national/international soccer games.

- *CT Regional Market*
 - Mr. Geremia noted that this budget contains a 5% increase in warehouse rents and increases in security as well as repairs and maintenance. Committee members requested that CRDA work with OPM and DOT on the possibility of converting the static billboards to electronic billboards during the coming fiscal year.
- *Front Street District*

Committee members elected to add the remaining budgets to the June 9, 2023 agenda.

- *CRDA Parking Facilities*
 - Jonathan Bostic presented the budget regarding the parking facilities and noted it includes a slight return of corporate parkers, a significant increase in security, and a reduction in repairs and maintenance due to the installation of a new gate system.
- *Church Street Garage*
 - Presented by Jonathan Bostic noting the level of corporate parkers will remain consistent with Fiscal Year 2023 activity. Mr. Freimuth noted that this garage has historically provided funding to the XL Center but is unable to do so next fiscal year. He also noted an increase in tenant parkers starting in early 2024 due to the Hilton/DoubleTree conversion with apartment units.
- *Bushnell South Garage*
 - Presented by Jonathan Bostic noting that the budget relies on continued revenue from the Bushnell Theater.
- *Central Utility Plant (CUP)*
 - Mr. Geremia noted that the three users of the CUP (CTCC; CT Science Center; Marriott) approved this draft budget at their last meeting.
- *Bond Indenture/Trustee*
- *CRDA Office*
 - Mr. Geremia reviewed several revenue sources of the office budget to include: State appropriation, construction admin. fees and housing project interest. Mr. Geremia noted a venue operating reserve funded with ARPA rollover funding in the amount of approximately \$600,000 to be allocated at the discretion of CRDA management. He also noted that this budget includes an additional construction services superintendent, facilities manager, and accountant as well as a 3% COLA and 3% market adjustment for staff effective July 1, 2023. This budget also includes funding for outside legal counsel and administrative assistance as needed.
- *State Appropriations and ARPA Funding*
 - Mr. Geremia reiterated that all budgets are fully funded for Fiscal Year 2024 and noted that for the first time, CRDA's appropriation includes funding for the Stadium at Rentschler Field. He also reiterated the use of approximately \$700,000 of ARPA rollover funding available for venue support during Fiscal Year 2024.

Upon a motion by Mr. Bessette, seconded by Mr. Hirsch, the Committee unanimously voted in favor of recommending all FY2023-2024 budgets to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

Adjourned 2:55pm

"The minutes of the June 9, 2023, CRDA Executive and Finance Committee were moved by David Robinson, seconded by Paul Hirsch and approved."