

# Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
**Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 10:00am**

Via onsite Jasper Boardroom and teleconference ~ Savannah Convention Center

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**Members present:** Bert Brantley, Pat Farrell, Joe Marinelli, Martin Miller, Ben Polote Jr., Anne Scheer, Mark Smith, Trip Tollison, Ruth Quattlebaum and Ansley Williams **Members absent:** Pritpal Singh **Also present:** Paul Threlkeld, Frank Poe (Consultant-via zoom), Lee Hughes, Yong Choe (YC Consulting-via zoom), Jeff Hewitt (Visit Savannah), Maggie Harney, Todd Nocerini (Songy Highroads), Stephen Hall (consultant), Bobby Knowles, Kevin Duvall (GWCCA), Marc Friday, Kendall Golightly and Michael Garcia and SCC staff: Kelvin Moore, Ronnie Hickman, Holly Jenkins, Al Rojas, Fredia Brady and Gail Terrell

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 10:00am.

Chairman Smith asked for approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's report. Motion made by Mr. Williams; seconded by Mr. Marinelli and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Counsel Report. Mr. Threlkeld stated no report at this time.

External Affairs Report. Mr. Hughes commented on a recent meeting at Savannah Technical College that Mr. Moore, Mr. Rojas, Mr. Marinelli and Mr. Hughes participated with the Chatham County Legislature Delegation to discuss future capital needs in tourism to market the state. Mr. Choe commented that the \$4.2 million earmarks included in the transportation appropriations remain for a favorable outcome.

Financial Report. Ms. Jenkins presented the financial report for the month of November. Ms. Jenkins reported a favorable month for November and favorable-year end for the facility. Ms. Jenkins then continued to report a favorable variance to the Authority budget for the month of November and favorable year-end to Authority budget. A brief recap/review of the debt service to include the current and future status was reviewed by Mr. Rojas.

Hotel Development Update. Mr. Nocerini provided an update including but not limited to citing the construction to be on time and on budget. Mr. Nocerini stated that three slabs on grade were completed in addition to the second floor of meeting space and the first elevation was poured today. Mr. Nocerini stated that the Hilton team would sign off on the model room being built on or about January 16, 2026. Mr. Poe reviewed the sales process, and recent meetings which included SCC and Mr. Andy Paschke, Hilton - Senior Director of Sales as well as Hilton's four phase commercial timeline. Mr. Poe commented on the upcoming meeting between Visit Savannah and SCC to discuss leads with the Hilton. Meeting to be held in January 2026 with the Hilton pre-opening Sales and Marketing team, Hilton Operating team, SCC and Visit Savannah.

To Chairman Smith's question with regards to how soon SCC will be able to create contracts for room block agreements, Mr. Poe replied that GWCC has a template available and suggested legal counsel to review.

Facility Operations Update. Mr. Hickman provided an update on the bulkhead repair. Chairman Smith suggested a review of the walkway design between the existing and Slip 3. Moffatt and Nichol to provide.

General Manager Update. Mr. Moore provided a brief overview of the Hughes Public Affairs agreement. Motion by Mr. Williams to renew the agreement; seconded by Mr. Polote Jr., and approved by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Moore then continued with a brief overview of the Tourism Leadership Council agreement. Motion by Mr. Polote Jr., to renew the agreement; seconded by Ms. Quattlebaum and approved by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Moore then moved forward with a brief overview of the Visit Savannah agreement. Motion by Mr. Tollison to renew the agreement; seconded by Mr. Farrell and approved by majority voice vote with Mr. Brantley and Mr. Marinelli recusing themselves from the discussion and vote.

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Mr. Marinelli expressed gratitude to Mr. Hewitt's dedication to Visit Savannah and acknowledged his retirement at the end of the month.

Chairman Smith asked for any other business; hearing none, then adjourned the meeting to the annual board holiday luncheon at 10:49am.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Bert Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer