

Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 11:00am

Via onsite Jasper Boardroom and teleconference ~ Savannah Convention Center

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

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 11:00am.

Chairman Smith asked for approval of the Minutes. Motion made by Mr. Marinelli; seconded by Mr. Polote Jr. and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Smith asked for approval of the Treasurer's report. Motion made by Ms. Quattlebaum; seconded by Mr. Farrell and approved by unanimous voice vote.

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

External Affairs Report. Mr. Choe stated that the Authority is in the best potential position to secure the \$4.2 million appropriation funds earmarked in the Transportation Housing and Urban Development. Brief discussion held on comparable bills in the Senate. Mr. Choe commented that Governor Kemp's budget to be released tomorrow with hopes of a favorable outcome for the \$5 million dollar request for the riverwalk.

Financial Report. Ms. Jenkins presented the financial report for the month of December. Ms. Jenkins reported a favorable month for December and favorable-year end for the facility. Ms. Jenkins then continued to report an unfavorable variance to the Authority budget for the month of December and favorable year-end to Authority budget.

Facility Operations Update. Mr. Hickman provided an update on the bulkhead repair, Hussey Gay and Bell proposal, Riverwalk connection design and Westin bulkhead repair. Mr. Hickman reviewed the action items detailing Secondary Pump Repairs by reducing the approved capital line item from \$300,000 to \$225,900 to cover the cost of the immediate Chillwater pump repairs and approve the \$74,100 cost to make the necessary Chillwater pump repairs. Motion by Vice-Chairman Marinelli to approve the reviewed actions items as presented; seconded by Mr. Polote Jr. and approved by unanimous voice vote. The board members to be provided with a job description to review which will have the scope of work to hire an owner representative to provide oversight of the hotel construction.

Mr. Hughes commented on an appropriation sub-committee meeting to be held in the near future.

General Manager Update. Mr. Moore provided a brief overview of the food and beverage services RFP process and then announced that SODEXO Live hospitality was awarded the contract. Vice-Chairman Marinelli and Mr. Polote Jr. provided brief comments about the professionalism and seamless process throughout the duration of the RFP, vetting, interviews and conclusion.

Hotel Development Update. Mr. Nocerini provided a development update including but not limited to citing the construction to be on time and on budget. Mr. Poe then provided a brief overview of the Quality Management Agreement (QMA) and the Room Block Agreement. Mr. Poe then introduced Attorney Franklin Jones, shareholder with Greenberg Traurig, LLP, who provided a review of the long-term responsibilities of SGCCA board members as related to the QMA and Room Block Agreement. Mr. Poe also expressed gratitude to Michael Owens, President and CEO of the Tourism Leadership Council (TLC) for his involvement with the hotelier meetings last year.

Chairman Smith commented on the upcoming Savannah-Chatham Day in Atlanta on February 4, 2026.

Mr. Duvall recognized Mr. Moore's 2nd year of employment with GWCCA.

Chairman Smith asked for any other business; Mr. Owens commented on TLC's upcoming 2026 focus on training in partnership with the University of Georgia which begins in February.

Charmain Smith then adjourned the meeting at 12:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bert Brantley', written over a horizontal line.

Bert Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer