



Capital Region Development Authority

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**CRDA Venue Committee Conference Call
Meeting Minutes
Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Friday, February 3, 2017
2:00 PM**

Members Present: Venue Committee Chair Andy Bessette, Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood (via phone), David Jorgensen (via phone) and Commissioner Catherine Smith (via phone)

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Chairman Bessette and the minutes of the October 13, 2016 meeting were approved on a voice vote.

1. XL Center

Capital Improvements – Mr. Freimuth reported that the capital projects at XL and in the Church Street garage are progressing, with bids for the ice floor expected to be released in about a week. Installation of the new ice floor is expected to begin in late May and finish up in late August.

In response to a question from Chairman Bessette, Mr. Saint explained that the current arena floor is comprised of three layers: a concrete slab on grade, an insulation layer and a concrete slab containing piping for the ice system. This project will remove the ice slab and insulation and then make any required repairs to the slab on grade. The ice slab will be replaced, along with the dasher board system surrounding the rink. Mr. Saint noted that the ice slab will be designed to NHL standards.

Mr. Freimuth noted that the summer shutdown will impact the facility's operating budget and Global Spectrum is working to mitigate that impact as much as possible.

Transformation Plan – Mr. Freimuth reported that CRDA has requested the \$250 million required for transformation of the XL Center be included in the Governor's 2018-19 bond package, which will be presented to the General Assembly on February 8th. Staff is looking at how this project can be phased over three or four years should the funds be approved over multiple budget years.

Wolfpack Renewal – Mr. Freimuth reported that MSG, the owner of the Wolfpack AHL franchise, has committed to play a fifth year at XL. This is the final year of the team’s contract and additional seasons will need to be negotiated. Mr. Freimuth noted that the franchise fee paid for the team is one of the highest in the league and this will likely be a topic of discussion in any contract extension.

2. Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field

Capital Improvements – Global Spectrum has reported that significant repair work is needed to address problems with the Stadium’s 15-year old HVAC system. In light of this, Mr. Freimuth noted that CRDA will be asking for additional capital funds to cover this work.

No capital funds have been requested for the Connecticut Convention Center or the Tennis Center.

10 Acre Parking Lot – Ms. Hart noted that an invitation to bid for the new parking lot should go out in a week or so, pending resolution of an environmental issue. The lot is expected to be cleared by the start of the 2017 UConn football season.

East Hartford Boulevard North Project – Ms. Hart also noted that five bid packages have been awarded on the East Hartford Boulevard project, all of which have come in under budget. The road project is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year, with access for football patrons guaranteed under the terms of the project agreement.

Horizon Outlet Mall Infrastructure Project – Mr. Saint reported that bid packages for site work have gone out, however, work is not expected to start for a few weeks while the remaining project agreements are finalized.

3. Other Business – Mr. Freimuth reported that he has had discussions with the City of Hartford regarding CRDA playing some sort of role in the renovation and operation of Dillon Stadium.

The next meeting/conference call of the Venue Committee is scheduled for March 3, 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.