



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, June 2, 2017
2:00 PM**

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

Staff: Executive Director Mike Freimuth, Anthony Lazzaro, Bob Saint, Joe Geremia, Kim Hart

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by Chairman Bessette and the minutes of the February 3, 2017 meeting were approved on a voice vote.

1. XL Center

a. Public-Private Partnership – RFQ

Mr. Freimuth reported that a Request for Qualifications was issued on May 8th and CRDA has been contacted by at least three interested parties. Statements of qualifications are due June 9th.

Mr. Freimuth noted that the statute authorizing CRDA to enter into such public-private partnerships has expired and that legislation is needed to extend this authority, as well as to amend certain restrictive language within the statute. If CRDA intends to go forward with a partnership, we will need to work with the General Assembly on an amendment.

A number of questions were raised by potential respondents and responses to these have been posted on the CRDA website. Some requested additional information on XL Center transformation plans, as well as on space to be acquired and square footages. More than one asked about CRDA contracts with Spectra and SCI Architects and whether these would remain under a public private partnership. Pro formas for the transformed building were also requested and these will be made available, subject to submission of a Nondisclosure Agreement.

b. Expiring Contracts

Mr. Freimuth reminded Committee members that both the Wolfpack and UConn agreements at XL will expire next year. The Rangers have offered an extension of the current fee structure, while the nature of a new deal with UConn is dependent on legislative funding for the XL Center transformation.

c. Transformation Plan

At CRDA's request, SCI is looking at different construction phasing options in the event that the General Assembly does not fully fund our request for \$250 million over the next four years.

Mr. Freimuth also noted that a second appraisal on the Northland property to be acquired for the XL transformation has been completed.

2. Connecticut Tennis Center

Mr. Freimuth reported that the Connecticut Open Tournament is in good financial shape for 2017, but the loss of UTC sponsorship after this year will be problematic.

DECD is expected to assist with covering the \$150,000 deficit the Tournament is carrying from last year.

There are tentative plans to hold a concert at the Tennis Center sometime in September in order to test the viability of using the facility for other events. Continuation and expansion of this effort will require legislation to amend the current prohibition on private events that was imposed in 1990 when construction funding for the facility was approved.

3. Connecticut Convention Center – no issues to report

4. Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field – no issues to report

The next meeting/conference call of the Venue Committee is scheduled for July 7, 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.