

Convention Facilities Authority (CFA)
Meeting Minutes May 15, 2020

To: CFA Board Members

From: Holly Christmann, CFA Secretary

Subject: Meeting Minutes May 15, 2020 via Zoom Conference Call.

CFA Members Present: Gwen McFarlin, Paul Brehm, Kevin Hardman, Rahiel Michael, Pete Witte, Lawrence Hawkins, Adam Gelter, Dan Unger, Lee Czerwonka, Bimal Patel, Pete Witte, and Brendon Cull

Others Present: Holly Christmann, Bridget Doherty, Lisa Anderson, Roger Friedmann, Cindy Fazio, Brad Ruwe, Laura Brunner, Julie Calvert, Karen Alder, Marion Haynes, Monica Morten,

1. Call to Order

Chair McFarlin called the meeting of the Hamilton County Convention Facilities Authority at 12:06 p.m. Mr. Friedmann conducted the roll call and indicated there is a quorum. Chair McFarlin thanks the members for joining virtually.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from May 28, 2019; June 26, 2019; August 13, 2019; and March 6, 2020.

Chair McFarlin accepted a motion to approve the minutes from Pete Witte and seconded by Kevin Hardman. Chair McFarlin asked for discussion, hearing none she asked for a vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair McFarlin reviewed communication guidelines for a smooth virtual meeting.

3. Update on headquarter hotel – Laura Brunner

Laura Brunner briefed members on the timeline in regards to the Millennium Hotel demolition. The asbestos abatement survey started on May 4th and a final report is due on June 5th. After that, asbestos removal process will start. Brunner explained that it is too early to report on a complete demolition schedule. The contract is expected to be signed by Turner and O'Rourke by the end of the month. Recently, Turner and The Port hosted a meeting with the African American Chamber and the Minority Business Accelerator to build opportunities for inclusion going forward. Continue to have preliminary discussions with two different hotel flags and talked to underwriters who are following the markets closely.

4. CVB update – Julie Calvert

Julie Calvert updated members on COVID-related separations since March of 2020; the CVB lost 57 convention groups that equates to about 53,000 room nights and 55,000 attendees. The economic impact of that is \$23 million in direct sales (directly from hotels) and a total sales loss of \$30 million

(restaurants, shopping, etc.). From June to December 2020, the CVB has another 123 groups on the books. The next convention we are looking to host is August if that holds.

Last week, rooms increased due to grants that were used for the homeless population. Not seeing an end in sight.

The Governor has several committees set up to Restart Ohio. Calvert is chairing one of the statewide committees on Travel and Tourism. Memorial Day weekend is typically the start of tourism season in Ohio. The committee just finished its work and will be submitted to the Governor by the end of the day today.

Chair McFarlin commends Calvert for her leadership on the State's taskforce and her work to setup a satellite hospital in the convention center.

5. First Quarter Report – Karen Alder

Karen Alder discussed the quarterly report and hotel tax status.

6. Executive Session per ORC 121.22(G)(3), Conference with Attorney for Public Body regarding pending litigation to include discussion with attorney regarding confidential and privileged information – Roger Friedmann

Motion to go into Executive Session made by Lee Czerwonka and seconded by Adam Gelter. The majority of members voted to go into executive session.

Motion and second to come out of executive session passed unanimously.

Motion to waive privilege was made by Adam Gelter. Seconded by Brendan Cull. No further discussion. Roll call vote to waive the privilege, motion carries 7 to 4.

New Business – State Auditor had no major findings or formal findings, a note was submitted to management letter in regards to some minutes that were late getting approved