

**Hamilton County
Convention Facilities Authority (CFA)
Meeting Minutes**

To: CFA Board Members

From: Jeff Aluotto, CFA Secretary

Subject: Meeting # 41: December 02, 2016

CFA Members Present: Gwen McFarlin, Dan Meyer, Jim Downton, Lee Czerwonka, Lawrence Hawkins, Brendon Cull, Danny Hill, Paul Brehm

CFA Members Excused: Shawn Butler

CFA/Project Staff Present: Karen Alder, Roger Friedmann, Jeff Weckbach

1. Call to Order

Chair McFarlin called the meeting of the Hamilton County Convention Facilities Authority to order at approximately 12:15 P.M. Chair McFarlin indicated that there was a quorum.

2. Review and Approval of September 23, 2016 meeting minutes

Chair McFarlin requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2016 meeting. The motion was moved and seconded. There was no discussion on the minutes.

Chair McFarlin conducted voice vote. The minutes of the September 23, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Review of Third Quarter Financial Report

Karen Alder discussed the Hotel Tax Status Report through the third quarter of 2016. The City collections totaled \$2.33 million. The County collections totaled \$6.98 million.

Next Karen discussed the CFA Expense Status Report in 2016; we had estimated expenditures of \$65,000 and year to date actual expenses of \$55,331. These expenses cover the cost of the annual audit, liability insurance, and fees remitted to the trustee for maintaining our accounts. The third quarter financial report was unanimously accepted.

4. Mural Financing Update

Karen Alder provided a general update on the status of the mural project. The murals have all been successfully installed and are on display. The project budget was \$750,000 which was funded through City and County TOT residual collections. The City issued bonds for the project. The total actual cost of the project was \$820,000. The City of Cincinnati will cover

the additional costs incurred with the project, per the agreement between the City and County. The actual cost of the project was higher than the budget, due to unforeseen additional expenses for special cranes and equipment that were required to complete the move of the murals. The CFA will have no additional financial commitment to the project.

5. Update on the Millennium Hotel

Dan Lincoln provided an update on the Millennium hotel. A \$65 million renovation plan was presented to the ownership of the Millennium; however this was not acted on.

The previous President of the company that owns the Millennium stepped down and the company has placed the renovation plans on hold. Therefore, the CVB is essentially back to square one with the company. The CVB believes the only short term option moving forward to resolve the issues with this Hotel is for the City to take ownership of the property. The Millennium is not likely to sell at this point. A question was raised as to whether or not zoning changes could force the Hotel to move.

There are several options for expansion of the Duke Energy Center that both involve and do not involve the Millennium property. Ultimately the project could cost upwards of \$200 million and the CVB is currently meeting with various property owners in the immediate vicinity to identify costs and to explore which option may be the best option for expansion.

Gwen McFarlin, Brendon Cull, Lee Czerwonka, and Jim Downton all volunteered to help with the evaluation of any plans or studies that may be required to generate movement on this project and to help frame the role of the CFA in any potential expansion.

6. Other Business

Barry Perks provided a general update on annual bookings through the CVB. 911,000 room nights had been booked to date in 2016 for future conferences, which represented an increase from 886,000 in 2015.

7. Next Meeting

The next scheduled CFA meeting will convene on March 10, 2017 at 12 pm. The other two meetings for 2017 will be:

- September 8, 2017 at 12 pm at the Duke Energy Center
- December 1, 2017 at 12pm at the Sharonville Convention Center

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.