

**CRDA Venue Committee Meeting  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
Connecticut Convention Center  
100 Columbus Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103  
February 14, 2019  
11:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Committee Chair Andy Bessette,

**Members Present Via Phone:** Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood, David Jorgensen and Mike Matteo

**Staff:** Executive Director Mike Freimuth, Tony Lazzaro, Joe Geremia and Kim Hart

**Guests:** Charles Johnson and Jeremy Saquibal of Johnson Consulting  
Mike Costelli and Michelle Hughes of the CT Convention Center

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. The minutes of the October 10, 2018 and November 2, 2018 meetings/conference calls were approved on a voice vote.

1. **Executive Session** – Committee members agreed to postpone the move to Executive Session until the end of the meeting.
2. **Pratt & Whitney Stadium** – Mr. Freimuth updated members on Spring activity at the Stadium. The replacement chair back seats have been ordered and will arrive on site sometime in April. The Stadium will play host to the NCAA Lacrosse Quarterfinals in late May and to the Hartford Athletic soccer team, who will be playing home games at Pratt & Whitney until the Dillon Stadium renovation is complete.
3. **XL Center** – CRDA staff are working on three initiatives relative to the XL Center:
  - a. **Economic Impact Analysis** - Mr. Freimuth reported that CRDA's sports business consultant has hired Stone Consulting to undertake an economic impact analysis of the current XL Center and a new renovated facility. A draft report is expected by the end of the month.

- b. **Lower Bowl Renovation Plan** - SCI Architects is finalizing its concept plan for a scaled-back renovation that focuses on opening up the atrium to the arena, increasing the number of rest rooms and expanding the number and types of premium seating in the building, primarily in the lower bowl.
  - c. **Lower Bowl Renovation Pro Forma** – In conjunction with SCI’s planning, Stafford Sports is developing a new pro forma for a renovated facility.
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- 4. **CT Convention Center** – Mr. Freimuth reported that the Convention Center is operating on budget.
  - 5. **Dillon Stadium** – Mr. Freimuth presented a status report on the Dillon Stadium project. The construction schedule anticipates a June 2019 completion and as noted above, the team will play its first home games at Pratt & Whitney Stadium.

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, the Hartford City Council voted on the two two-way agreements between the City and HSG and between the City and CRDA.

- 6. **Tennis Center** – Mr. Freimuth reported a Chinese investment group has offered to purchase the Connecticut Open sanction. Revenue from the sale will be split amongst several parties, including CRDA, who will recoup the \$618,000 it provided for the purchase of the original sanction. The Tennis Foundation will retain \$2-\$3 million that it may use to purchase and operate a smaller tournament in the future.
- 7. **Executive Session** – Committee members agreed via voice vote to go into Executive Session for a contract discussion relative to the Convention Center.

The Committee came out of Executive Session and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42.

The next meeting of the Venue Committee is scheduled for March 1, 2019.