

Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority

Organizational Meeting

Minutes

November 10, 2025 • 2:00 pm

Columbus Civic Center, Hospitality Suites

400 4th Street, Columbus, GA 31901

ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members Present – Andy G. Luker (Chair), Robert L. Wadkins, Jr. (Vice Chair), Ashley Wotenian (Secretary), Herman E. Lewis, Jr (Treasurer). Charles J. Rutland, Mike Welch, Morgan Moore and Gerald Miley

Voting Members Absent – Will Taylor

Ex-Officio Members Present – Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin, Director Holli Browder, Director Ryan Pruett, Lt. Kelly Phillips, Director Forrest Toelle, Charles Auer, and Jeff Croop

Ex-Officio Members Absent – NONE

Visitor(s) Present: Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge, Finance Director Angelica Alexander, HR Director Reather Hollowell and Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall

1. Call to Order

Chair Andy Luker called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

2. Roll Call

- Authority Department Secretary – Zeanne Abano, Civic Center

3. Statement of Purpose (Organizational Structure Discussion)

- The Board discussed the need for clarity regarding the Executive Director's responsibilities across all facilities, as well as defining the Authority's oversight versus Parks & Recreation's operational control. The relationship between the Sports Council and the Authority also requires clarification. Chair Luker requested that Council representatives attend the next meeting to address questions and provide clarity.

4. Review and Discussion of ByLaws

- The Board reviewed the proposed Bylaws. Further clarification from Council is required before approval. Copies have been distributed to all Authority members through email.

5. Discussion of Initial Priorities

- The Board will continue to refine short-term and long-term goals for the Authority.

6. Administrative Items (Facility Operations, South Commons Facility Status, and Budget & Revenue)

Facility Operations, South Commons Facility Status, and Budget & Revenue

Director Holli Browder distributed an informational booklet on A.J. McClung Stadium and the South Commons Softball Complex.

- Parks & Recreation currently manages maintenance, scheduling, and operations at South Commons.
- Both A.J. McClung Stadium and the Softball Complex require significant renovations, including locker rooms, concessions, seating, plumbing, and restrooms.
- There is no separate budget item for South Commons; it is funded through the Parks & Recreation general fund.
- Revenue is primarily supported by hotel taxes rather than direct facility income.

Establishment of Regular Meetings

- The Board approved a regular meeting schedule to be held on the **second Monday of each month at 2:00 PM** in the Columbus Civic Center Hospitality Suites. Alternate locations include the Columbus Convention & Trade Center and City Hall. Most meetings will be held at the Civic Center.

7. New Business (Civic Center Digital Initiatives)

- **Civic Center Digital Initiatives**
Interim Civic Center Director **Kanise Wiggins** presented a proposal to implement a **Ticketless/Cashless System** to address guest concerns about concession speed and food variety. The Board **approved** this system for box office ticketing and concessions, effective **January 1, 2026**.

Ms. Wiggins also presented an **Amazon “Just Walk Up”** concession concept requiring a **\$50,000 investment**. The Board requested further review before approval and discussion of renovation timelines.

- Future Reports from Division Managers (Civic Center and Parks & Rec) – to be discussed next meeting
- Open floor for additional items from members:

Andy Luker, Chair

- Email questions to compile for discussion at the next meetings.
- Provide general overview of the Ice Rink operations.
- Review Profit/Loss statements for the Civic Center and Ice Rink
- Review of tenant contracts for concession operations
- Schedule a tour of A.J. McClung Stadium and South Commons Softball Complex

8. Old Business – NONE

9. Public Comment – NONE

10. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm, Gerald Miley

Minutes Recorded by: Zeanne Abano, Civic Center, Authority Department Secretary

*Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, December 08, 2025, at 2:00 pm,***

Columbus Civic Center Hospitality Suites, 400 4th St Columbus, GA 31901