

## **Special Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday, July 30, 2024 - 3:00 P.M. Location: *Virtual* 

## In Attendance:

Rochelle Palache, Chair of the SCS Board Lauren Gauthier, Chair of the XL Center Workgroup Stu Mahler, Member of the XL Center Workgroup Greg Daniels, Executive Director Jonathan Longman, Chief Procurement Officer Aaron Felman, Staff Attorney Samson Anderson, Research Analyst Aleshia Hall, Administrative Assistant

## MINUTES

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lauren Gauthier at 3:00 p.m.

2. Discussion of XL Center matter

Lauren Gauthier acknowledged documentation received from FOIA yesterday. She addressed John, Greg, and Aaron and confirmed that they had reviewed the Attorney General's letter dated February 25, 2021, to former SCSB Chair Lawrence Fox that she sent regarding the Chief Procurement Officer's authority under C.G.S. §4e-2 (the "Letter").

Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) Longman confirmed that they received the Letter but were not certain if they were in agreement with the interpretation thereof and thought that was the purpose of today's meeting. He explained there is language in the Letter that makes him cautious about moving forward without understanding the purpose of the work group. He thought that was why they were meeting today.

Ms. Gauthier shared that the Letter was used to get documents from the Port Authority. Stuart Mahler stated they have the authority to do this and have done so in the past, so that is that.

CPO Longman read sections of the document, particularly page 5, and attempted to explain his interpretation of this letter and asked Ms. Gauthier to clarify if the purpose of the work group was to review and monitor the procurement processes. Ms. Gauthier confirmed that is the intent. CPO Longman stated that this is not how they typically do it, but that is why he wanted to meet today to learn more about next steps. Ms. Gauthier requested documentation on Friday and received it before midday on Monday.

Ms. Gauthier was upset that CPO Longman submitted an FOIA request in her name without her consent and that it was inappropriate of him not to await her response on whether or not he had authority under C.G.S. §4e-2. CPO Longman responded that she had wanted to use his positional authority which would have made him assume responsibility for her request, and he was not certain that he even had that authority.

Mr. Mahler stated to CPO Longman that he is responsible to the Board, and they have given him directions on what to do. To which CPO Longman responded that he did obtain the documents Ms. Gauthier requested and is unclear what the issue is because they received all the documents they asked for. Ms. Gauthier stated this is antithetical to the mission of the Board, and if he wanted to deviate from the direction of using 4e-2 authority, that should have been a conversation prior to submission of an FOIA request in her name.

At this time, Chair Rochelle interjected that her impression was that this subject was to be handled in a side conversation to allow this to be a productive meeting. She asked Ms. Gauthier if she had connected with CPO Longman before the meeting to discuss this issue. Ms. Gauthier responded that CPO Longman was not available until today. Chair Palache said it would be helpful for her to *reel it back in* for us to have a productive meeting. Chair Palache asked Ms. Gauthier what was needed and what her findings from the documents were. Ms. Gauthier agreed to talk to CPO Longman offline.

Ms. Gauthier requested that staff establish a shared file for storage of materials related to this work group that contains:

- All documents received from the FOIA commission
- Attorney General's Letter defining the scope of our authority
- State Statutes and Public Acts referenced in the documents
- Map of contractual relationships between all of these documents
- CRDA Board agendas and minutes relating to this matter
- Bond Commission agendas and minutes relating to this matter

Ms. Gauthier also requested a map of the contractual relationships between all of these documents in the table of agreements that details:

- What is the agreement
- Who are the parties
- What are the terms of the agreements
- Period of performance
- Start date
- End date
- Options attached
- How long are the options for
- Who is talking to who

- Who is responsible to whom
- Who is owning the site and responsible for repair
- Who is doing the ticketing
- Is there any other kind of service arrangements happening (security, IT, etc.)
- Timeline

Ms. Gauthier and Mr. Mahler will review the actual language within the contract and put together a list of questions to bring to CRDA.

Executive Director Daniels questioned if the intent of this work group was within the scope of the *review and monitor* parameters of the AGs memo. Ms. Gauthier confirmed that it is within the scope permitted.

Ms. Gauthier asked who the staff point person will be for this project; Executive Director Daniels confirmed that he will liaise all communications regarding this work group.

In response to her inquiry regarding when she should expect that the staff will have completed their assignments, Executive Director Daniels confirmed he will establish the shared drive by tomorrow, but he will have to work with staff to reprioritize their workloads to assume this additional responsibility. Within 24 hours he will provide a response to that question.

3. Adjournment – Having no further discussion or questions from staff, Chair Palache concluded the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aleshia M. Hall Administrative Assistant