

**SPORTS AUTHORITY OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE
& DAVIDSON COUNTY**

**Minutes of August 19, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting
Nissan Stadium – Press Box
10:30 a.m.**

Board Members: Cathy Bender (Chair), Frank Harrison (Vice-Chair), Emmett Wynn (Secretary/Treasurer), Kim Adkins, Margaret Behm, Don Deering, Jad Duncan, Glenn Farner, Melvin Gill, Jon Glassmeyer, Dan Hogan, Aaron McGee

Staff: Monica Fawknottson, Quinton Herring, Melissa Wells, Margaret Darby (Legal)

Titans/ Nissan Stadium: Bob Flynn, Shannon Myers, Burke Nihill, Adam Nuse, Shereme Siewnarine

Predators/ Ford Ice Center: Kyle Clayton, Keith Hegger, David Kells, Michelle Kennedy, Bill Wickett

Sounds/ First Tennessee Park: Doug Scopel

Nashville SC:

Visitors: Aldo Amato (Nashville Sports Council), Kellen DeCoursey (CAA/ICON), C. J. Duncan (SRG), Tim Debusse (GHP, Inc.), Marc Farha (CAA/ICON), Ron Gobbell (GHP, Inc.), Carol Greenlee (Mortenson/Messer), Eric Johannes (Mortenson), Tami Sturges (Piedmont Natural Gas), Council Member Nancy VanReece, Duncan Williams (Croft and Associates)

Chair Bender called the meeting of the Sports Authority Board of Directors Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Consider Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2021 Board Meeting

Upon a motion made by Director Adkins and seconded by Director Farner, the Board approved the minutes from the June 17, 2021, Board meeting.

Director Bender shared that as part of the Sports Authority's Title IX spotlight leading up to the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, Gold Medal Olympian and TSU Track Coach Chandra Cheeseborough-Guice is our special guest. At the June meeting the Board approved a Resolution commemorating and celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Title IX which gave women athletes the right to equal opportunity in sports in educational institutions that receive Federal funds. Leading up to the anniversary in June 2022, the Authority will spotlight both women and men who have impacted women's sports. Also in attendance are Aldo Amato, with the Nashville Sports Council, who brought brochures highlighting events leading up to this city-wide/yearlong celebration and Councilmember Nancy Van Reeves, representing District 8. Director Bender noted that founding Sports Authority member Coach Ed Temple Authority Board, was also Coach Cheeseborough-Guice's Track Coach and supporter. Coach Temple has a statue at First Horizon Park and an Olympic statue which is in Clarksville along with Olympian Wilma Rudolph.

Director Wynn introduced Coach Cheeseborough-Guice and presented a Resolution as part of the Sports Authority's celebration of the 50th anniversary of Title IX recognizing her outstanding contributions to track and field and to women's sports at the local, state, national, and international levels. Clips were shown from the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles including the 400 where she won Silver and the 4x100 where she won gold.

Following the clips, Director Behm interviewed Coach Cheeseborough-Guice, sharing the major impact of her involvement in women's sports and Title IX, as well her journey to Tennessee State University and Coach Ed Temple. Director Adkins asked for the TSU Track schedule, Coach Cheeseborough-Guice shared that they will be hosting their first indoor meet as part of the Title IX celebration, which will be on January 9, 2022.

Executive Director's Report

Chair Bender recognized Ms. Monica Fawknatson to give the Executive Director's Report. Director Fawknatson provided updates on staffing and expenses. Quinton Herring's position has been upgraded from Administrative Services Officer 2 to Administrative Services Officer 3. The position was posted as a departmental promotional position, Mr. Herring applied, and the promotion has been completed. In addition, the Job Announcement for the open Administrative Services Officer 3 position has been submitted to the Human Resources Department, and will be posted within the next couple of weeks. The 2021 SEC Basketball Tournament invoice and backup documentation have been reviewed and paid, expenses were about \$12,000 lower than the previous year with the largest expense being for labor, followed by hospitality and decor. There was no action that the Board needed to take.

Personnel/Finance Committee Report

Consider approval of adjustments to staffing and compensation for FY22.

Chair Bender provided a report on the Joint meeting of the Personnel/Finance Committee. She shared that the Committees met on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, for final discussion on adjustments to staffing and compensation for FY22-specifically the Executive Director's compensation. A justification was presented and the Committees, noting how the responsibilities under the job have changed over the past five to six years, recommended that the salary be increased to \$135,900 effective July 1, 2021, which keeps it in line with the amount authorized under the Civil Service rules. Funding for the increase is available. Chair Bender also noted that this increase represents the board's recognition of the added responsibilities and changes in the position Ms. Fawknatson has assumed.

Upon a motion made by Director Adkins and seconded by Director Duncan, the board voted to approve that effective July 1, 2021, the Authority will increase the Executive Director's salary to \$135,900. Funding will come from the Operating Budget and, if necessary, in the future, Sports Authority allocations for Operational Expenses from the Arena Account may be used. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Finance Committee Report

Consider approval of a Resolution authorizing the granting of a permanent and temporary easement to Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. on a parcel of property owned by the Sports Authority.

Chair Bender recognized Finance Chair Glassmeyer to give the Finance Committee Report. He shared that the Committee met Tuesday, August 17, 2021, and approved minutes from the previous meeting. The Committee heard from representatives from Piedmont Gas, a that permanent easement, as well as a temporary construction easement and damages, were needed in June 2019 to repair a damaged pipeline area. Total compensation for these easements and damages is \$58,650 and the funds will go to debt service at Nissan Stadium. Staff and Metro Legal have reviewed and the Finance Committee recommends approval.

Chair Glassmeyer asked Ms. Fawknorton to provide additional information on the Piedmont easements. Director Gill asked about the calculation of the compensation. Ms. Fawknorton shared that the compensation was based on appraisal information and that the permanent easement being acquired is a total of .01 acres. She also shared that under normal circumstances, an easement request would have come to the Authority for approval before the work was done in 2019. Although staff was aware that Piedmont was on site repairing a line, it was not aware of the easement until Croft and Associates, the firm that handled the acquisition, contacted the Sports Authority earlier this year to see whether compensation had been received. Based on conversations with Tami Sturges of Piedmont Gas and Carol Croft of Croft and Associates, it appeared that at some point communication was rerouted to Public Property and the Department of Finance and the proposed agreement because of staff retirements did not make it back to the Sports Authority. Ms. Fawknorton recognized Ms. Tami Sturges from Piedmont to provide additional information. Ms. Sturges shared that the work was done during the Summer of 2019 and was completed quickly. At the time, they worked with the Titans and Quinton Herring to make sure it was completed in a timely manner, an appraisal was the basis of the offer, and that documentation was provided to Public Property and to the Finance Department.

Upon a motion made by Director Duncan and seconded by Director Adkins, the Board had no additional questions, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Consider approval of a Resolution approving an agreement between the Sports Authority and CAA/ICON for consulting services related to the Women's Professional Sports Initiative.

Chair Glassmeyer shared that the contract is still being negotiated and the recommendation was to defer this until that is completed.

Titans Update-Finance Committee

The Committee also heard from Shannon Myers, CPA, Vice President of Finance for the Titans, who provided an update on current and anticipated capital projects.

MLS Stadium Update

Chair Bender recognized Kellen Decoursey of CAA/ICON to present the MLS Stadium Report. Mr. Decoursey shared a presentation providing updates on the MLS Stadium and community involvement. CAA/ICON, along with several of their partners, have worked with Napier Elementary providing new soccer goals, new logos on sidewalks, new sidewalk games (hopscotch and four square), repainting the exterior of benches and gazebos, and several other

projects. Construction is on schedule and budget, and injury free. There will be a Topping Out ceremony on August 27, 2021, he invited all to attend. There are currently six hundred workers on site. They are continuing to coordinate with the neighbors and the infrastructure project.

Ms. Carol Greenlee of Mortenson/Messer provided a report on DBE participation. Participation is at 35%, exceeding the 30% goal. Ninety DBE firms have been awarded contracts which represents a total of 104 Tennessee DBE firms. Employees are very proud of being on a project that is injury free. Workforce on the project includes 1,277 employees, 1,037 Tennessee employees, and 434 Davidson County employees. Director Gill asked for clarification of the number of Middle Tennessee employees, Ms. Greenlee explained that the information that they have is from zip code information.

Ron Gobbell (GHP, Inc.) provided a quick overview of the other projects at the Fairground campus. The infrastructure project is currently in the heavy earthwork phase, rain has been a factor; but it is still on schedule and within budget. It is a separate \$25M bond issue and should be completed by mid-2022 and available when the stadium opens. Phase 2 of Fair Park will be playing a role in accessibility, it will provide connection to Nolensville Pike. The final Fairgrounds Expo building has now been funded, it is still in the design phase, and will hopefully be under construction by January 2022 and be completed during the Summer of 2022—it is immediately adjacent to the current job trailers and is independent of the other projects. The Mixed-Use project is in process, erosion control has been started and the first phase will be an approximately 2 ½ year process. Director Wynn asked how the space for the existing buildings will be affected by the infrastructure construction. Mr. Gobbell explained that the new Expo Building will blend in with the main effort of the other projects and the infrastructure project will be mainly a roadway project which will be taking Wedgewood Avenue from Rains Avenue over to Craighead Avenue with a new bridge and extending Benton Avenue.

Nissan Stadium Update

Chair Bender recognized Adam Nuse of the Titans to present the Nissan Stadium update. Mr. Nuse shared a presentation providing updates on the upcoming season and changes within the organization. The mission statement has been updated to “Win. Serve. Entertain.” On June 6, 2021, the Titans executed a trade with the Atlanta Falcons and acquired 7-time Pro Bowler Julio Jones. Construction is almost complete on an additional office complex, St. Thomas Sports Park, and staff will be moving in the next few weeks. The organization is continuing its involvement with social justice rejecting racism and advancing community causes. Director Adkins asked for additional information on CapEx and plans for the possible Redevelopment of the stadium area. Titans’ President, Burke Nihill, shared that the talks are still in process with the Mayor’s office to work construct a thirty-year plan that will be worthy of Nashville. If there are things that they feel can be rolled into a renovation rather than addressed now, honoring the Sports Authority relationship, they are delaying those things; others items may not be able to wait. Director Farner asked for information on traffic issues that occurred with the cancellation of the Garth Brooks concert, Mr. Nuse shared that due to last minute weather issues, there were traffic problems, and they are working with the Metro Police and Parks to correct those in the future.

Chair Bender announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, September 16, 2021 at First Horizon Ballpark.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.