

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE &
DAVIDSON COUNTY

Minutes of November 21, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Directors
Bellevue Ford Ice Center
10:30 a.m.

Board Members: Kim Adkins, Margaret Behm, Cathy Bender, Jon Glassmeyer, Dan Hogan, Aaron McGee, Anna Page, Dudley West, Emmett Wynn,

Staff: Monica Fawknorton, Ilesha Montesrin, Quinton Herring, Margaret Darby (Legal)

Titans/ Nissan Stadium: Jenneen Kaufman

Predators/ Ford Ice Center: Sean Henry, Kyle Clayton, Keith Hegger, Danny Butler, Michelle Kennedy, David Kells, Mike Skeats, Kory Ade, Delaney Collins

Sounds/ First Tennessee Park: Doug Scopel, Adam Nuse

Visitors: Roxianne Bethune (Alliance Synergy Group), Ron Gobbell (Gobbell Hays Projects), Dominique Arrieta (Gobbell Hays Projects), Marc Farha (CAA/ICON), Nick Rouziar (CAA/ICON), Jason Farmer (Black Lens Productions), Lawrence Hall (Black Lens Productions)

Chairwoman Adkins called the meeting of the Sports Authority Board of Directors to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. She thanked Mr. Danny Butler and his team at Ford Ice Center for hosting the meeting. Chairwoman Adkins gave a few facility/partner highlights:

- Bellevue Ford Ice Center's grand opening was October 12th
- The Tennessee Titans' regular season began September 8th
- The Nashville Predators' regular season started October 3rd
- First Horizons Park will host GLOW through December 31st
- Nashville SC hosted the MLS Expansion Draft Party on November 19th

Chairwoman Adkins then acknowledged the passing of Board member, Mr. Chuck Meriwether, who joined the Sports Authority in 2012. Mr. Meriwether chaired the Personnel Committee and worked for Major League Baseball (MLB) as an umpire and an umpire supervisor. His funeral was held on November 1st and called for a moment of silence to observe Mr. Meriwether's life. Following the moment of silence, the Authority, **upon a motion duly made and seconded, unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.**

Executive Director's Report

Chairwoman Adkins recognized Ms. Monica Fawknorton to give the Executive Director's Report. Ms. Fawknorton reviewed the agenda, commenting on the impact of Mr. Meriwether's life on so many people. She then announced that Mayor John Cooper has nominated Mr. Frank Harrison to fill Mr. Meriwether's unexpired term. Mr. Harrison is a former Councilman and will go before Metro Council for confirmation on December 3rd.

Personnel Committee Report – Consideration of Executive Director's open range increase for current year (FY20)

Chairwoman Adkins recognized Ms. Cathy Bender to give the Personnel Committee Report. Ms. Bender reported that the Personnel Committee met at 9am, for the annual review of the Executive Director. The Committee members stated that Ms. Monica Fawknorton has exceeded expectations and that it was a great year for the Sports Authority. The Personnel Committee recommended approval of a 2.5% increase for the Executive Director, in accordance with Human Resources' plan for Open Range Employees. Ms. Bender noted that funding for merit increases was approved by Council in the FY20 budget, and that the increase would be retro-active to the start of the fiscal year (July 1, 2019). Additional members of the Board thanked Ms. Fawknorton and her staff (Ms. Ilesha Montesrin and Mr. Quinton Herring) for their hard work over the past year. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to approve the Executive Director's open range increase of 2.5%.**

Finance Committee Report – Recommendation that consultant fees related to the Women's Sports Initiative be paid from Sports Authority allocations from Bridgestone Arena

Chairwoman Adkins recognized Mr. Jon Glassmeyer to give the Finance Committee Report. Mr. Glassmeyer stated that the Finance Committee met on October 24, 2019 to discuss the Women's Sports Initiative (W.S.I.). The Committee agreed to form two committees: A Sports Authority Ad Hoc Committee to be chaired by Ms. Cathy Bender and a Women's Sports Advisory Committee chaired by Ms. Margaret Behm. The Finance Committee determined that staff should solicit bids from consulting firms to perform a feasibility study that would determine if the city's existing facilities could house a women's sports team. The Committee recommended that funds for the study be paid from Sports Authority allocations under the new Arena lease agreement. Mr. Glassmeyer stated that the amount is not to exceed \$25,000.

Women's Sports Ad Hoc Committee Report – Consideration of consultant bids

Chairwoman Adkins recognized Ms. Bender to give the Women's Sports Ad Hoc Committee report. Ms. Bender stated that the Ad Hoc Committee met at 9:30am. The Committee discussed the role of the Advisory Committee and reviewed the submitted proposals for consulting services. Ms. Bender reported that staff sent a call for bids to five different firms and received two back. The Committee vetted proposals from CAA/ICON and Huddle Up Group (a comparison of the bids is attached as *Exhibit 1*). The Ad Hoc Committee recommended approval of CAA/ICON's proposal, to the full Board.

Ms. Fawknorton stated that the Resolution before the Board does the following:

1. Approves staff to enter into an agreement with CAA/ICON;
2. Approves funding to be paid from revenues received for Sports Authority expenses in the Arena Account; and
3. Sets the fee at an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Ms. Fawknorton additionally stated that Metro's procurement policy requires departments to request bids from three sources and, if using their delegated purchasing authority (up to \$25,000), to select the firm with the lowest cost. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to approve the resolution authorizing and approving CAA/ICON to provide consultant services expenses related to the Women's Sports Initiative.**

MLS Stadium Update

Chairwoman Adkins recognized Mr. Ron Gobbell, President Emeritus of Gobbell Hays Partners, to give the MLS Stadium update. Mr. Gobbell reported that the Expo Buildings at the Fairgrounds are up and running (recently hosting the Flea Market and Christmas Village). The MLS infrastructure design is currently at 35% completion and the design processes are on schedule with current timelines. Mr. Gobbell stated that his firm has been answering questions from the new Administration and continues to give updates on the ongoing projects. Demolition of the old expo buildings has been delayed until the Mayor's Office has all its questions answered. In response to a question, Mr. Gobbell stated that the current MLS Stadium design could physically accommodate the addition of a women's soccer team.

Facility Questions

Chairwoman Adkins asked if there were any questions for the Tennessee Titans or the Nashville Sounds and there were none.

Ford Ice Center Report

Chairwoman Adkins recognized Mr. Danny Butler, General Manager, to give the Ford Ice Center Report. Mr. Butler announced that the Grand Opening of Ford Ice Center- Bellevue was on October 12, 2019 and that it had been a successful first month. Mr. Butler announced that Nashville will be the home of the 2022 National Figure Skating Championships with the main event at Bridgestone Arena and training at the Ford Ice Centers. Prior to the Grand Opening, Ford Ice Center Bellevue held a “soft opening”, hosting the CCM World Invitational with over sixty teams traveling to Nashville for the AAA hockey tournament. Mr. Butler noted that even though the facilities bare the same name, there are differences between the Antioch and Bellevue locations:

- Bellevue is 25,000 square feet larger
- Rink 1 at Bellevue has a larger seating capacity of 1,000 seats
- Bellevue is more eco-friendly, using electric Zambonis and LED lighting
- Bellevue has 12 locker rooms – as opposed to Antioch’s 8 locker rooms

Mr. Butler then recognized Ms. Kory Ade, Figure Skating Coach, to continue the report. Ms. Ade stated that she moved from Colorado Springs after being recruited by Scott Hamilton. Ms. Ade announced a new skate program called “Grass Roots,” which begins training skaters from a young age. She then recognized Mr. Mike Skeats, Director of Amateur Hockey & Fan Development, to continue the report. Mr. Skeats reported that Ford Ice Center’s girl-specific hockey programs, include:

- Hockey & Heels – Women’s 1-on-1 training event that had 210 attendees last year
- Girls Hockey Weekend – Various programs throughout the weekend to engage females of all ages
- Girl’s Only Learn to Skate
- Girl’s Only Try Skating for Free
- Preds Girl’s Hockey Club – Sign-ups are free and include opportunities to attend exclusive events throughout the year

On Oct. 19, Ford Ice Center hosted the Preds Girls Hockey Launch event with two “girls-only” Try Skating for Free sessions, and a girls hockey clinic coached by our Preds Female Hockey Ambassadors Ms. Lauren Bonino and Ms. Delaney Collins. The first annual Country Classic will be held at Ford Ice Center Bellevue from Nov. 29th – 30th. This Division 1 women's hockey tournament will feature four teams: Harvard Crimson, University of Minnesota Gophers, Wisconsin Badgers and Boston College Eagles.

Mr. Skeats then recognized Ms. Delaney Collins, Ambassador for the International Ice Hockey Federation, to continue the report. Ms. Collins is a Canada-native and played hockey for 11 years. After retiring as a player, she coached for 7 years before becoming Ambassador of skills development to forty-three countries. The Ford Ice Center Report concluded with a video recap of the current programming at the facilities.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.