

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

Minutes of the February 21, 2013 Meeting of the Board of Directors
Bridgestone Arena- Patron Platinum Club
8:00 a.m.

Board Members: Kim Adkins, Alfonzo Alexander, Margaret Behm, Cathy Bender, J.D. Elliott, Chuck Meriwether, Ralph Perrey, Ed Temple, Nancy Vincent, Emmett Wynn

Staff: Monica Fawknorton, Margaret Darby (Legal)

Predators/Powers Management: Sean Henry, Michelle Kennedy, Sean Marshall, Beth Snider

Titans/LP Field: Walter Overton, Jenneen Kaufman, Scott Rayson

Visitors: Dave Ammenheuser (The Tennessean), Brasher Burbank (Stewart Transportation Solutions); Sonny Lyons (Metro HR), Jane Madden (Metro HR)

Chairman J.D. Elliott called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and recognized Ms. Margaret Darby to read from the Metro Code of Laws (Ordinance No. BL2006-1050). Chairman Elliott welcomed and recognized *Tennessean* Sports Editor Dave Ammenheuser to address the Authority. Mr. Ammenheuser thanked the Authority for the opportunity to speak to them and noted that since he took the position in May 2012 he has spoken over forty times to different civic and community groups. Mr. Ammenheuser stated his commitment to bringing the city of Nashville a newspaper with one of the best sports sections in the country. Since taking on the position of editor, the *Tennessean* has increased coverage of its high school football section, added a golf writer to its staff, begun the process of looking for a motorsports writer, and started an internship program which has already included nine college students. Mr. Ammenheuser stated his desire for the *Tennessean* to become a bigger part of what the Sports Authority and the community at large is doing and asked that the members of the Authority please contact him with any ideas they have for improving the sports section.

Chairman Elliott thanked Mr. Ammenheuser for his report and called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting of the Authority. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Sports Authority unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2013 board meeting.**

Executive Director Search Update

Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Alfonzo Alexander to give a report on the Executive Director Search. Mr. Alexander reported that 156 applications were received within the first week of posting. Metro Human Resources (HR) had done an excellent job of culling down the applications to a list of the 13 most qualified candidates. Mr. Alexander will continue to work with HR and five finalists will be selected for panel interviews before the entire Ad Hoc Committee. The committee will then bring one recommended candidate before the full board for approval. Mr. Alexander noted that the panel interviews are open and invited all interested members of the Authority to attend. Chairman Elliott thanked Mr. Alexander for his leadership and work with Metro HR.

Chairman Elliott continued by reporting that Ms. Monica Fawknorton will be taking maternity leave in April and that while she is out the office will be covered with staffing through Metro's contracted temporary service. Ms. Fawknorton reported that Ms. Norma Dozier has worked as a temp for the Sports Authority a number of times over the years including four years ago when Ms. Fawknorton was on maternity leave. She

will begin working in the office three days a week in March as part of her training and will increase to 5 days a week (or full time) once Ms. Fawknorton's leave begins in April.

Executive Director's Report

Chairman Elliott recognized Ms. Fawknorton to give the Executive Director's Report. After thanking Mr. Ammenheuser for his remarks to the Authority, Ms. Fawknorton began her report with an updated list (November-January) of special events at LP Field which utilized Sports Authority-controlled parking lots. The list additionally contained upcoming events scheduled to use the parking lots such as the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament, The Tom King Classic, Wally Bynam Caravan Club, and the Country Music Marathon.

Ms. Fawknorton turned her attention to the FY14 Sports Authority Department Budget, reminding the Authority that in December they received a 3-year Budget vs. Actual report of the department's budget and was informed that the current budget (FY13) would serve as the baseline for the FY14 proposed budget. At the end of January the Finance Department released its budget directives for FY14, announcing that all Metro Departments would be asked to create a 2% reduction scenario which, for the Sports Authority, amounts to \$4,500, since not all budgetary items are subject to cuts. Ms. Fawknorton noted that the cuts were made in administrative areas. Proposed budgetary improvements include \$30,000 for an increase in the Executive Director's compensation and \$12,000 to cover the storm water utility fees at LP Field. Proposed reductions and proposed improvements will be entered separately into Metro's budget system. The Mayor's department budget hearings are scheduled to take place the end of March and the beginning of April. Ms. Nancy Vincent requested that the board receive the FY13 Budget vs. Actual YTD report at the March meeting. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Sports Authority voted to approve the proposed FY14 department budget in the amount of \$650,300.**

Ms. Fawknorton continued by reporting that in light of recent adjustments to the way in which Bridgestone Arena capital is addressed it is important that the Sports Authority begin to look at processes for approval of capital items. Ms. Fawknorton submitted two approval processes for the board to consider- one for Capital Improvement Fee (CIF) projects and one for capital projects that will be submitted with Metro's annual capital budget. Chairman Elliott appointed Ms. Margaret Behm to serve as the Authority's liaison for capital projects at Bridgestone Arena and asked that she work with staff and Sean Henry to determine an appropriate procedure.

Finally Ms. Fawknorton reported that on January 13th she, Margaret Darby, and Bob Lackey met with the Titans to review and discuss their proposed list of LP Field Capital Reimbursement Requests. The list of items presented to the Authority for reimbursement will continue to be vetted over the next month with the Titans seeking approval of the capital expenditures at the March meeting. Chairman Elliott reported that the Finance & Audit Review Committee will be reinstated and that he has asked Ms. Lauren Brisky to serve as chair. Additionally he has asked Mr. Chuck Meriwether to be on the committee, and as liaisons to LP Field and Bridgestone Arena, Mr. Ralph Perrey and Ms. Margaret Behm will serve as well.

LP Field Report

Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Walter Overton to give the LP Field Report. Mr. Overton began by reporting that since the last Sports Authority meeting LP Field hosted its largest US Women's soccer match with more than 14,000 fans. Upcoming events include the Tom King Marathon (March), the Country Music Marathon (April), the Good Guys Car Show (May), and the CMA Music Festival (June).

Mr. Overton additionally reported that the balance of the ticket tax is approximately \$1.9 million and the balance of the stadium capital fund is just under \$1.4 million. The Titans' list of unfilled reimbursement requests total approximately \$2.3 million, while the capital requests the Sports Authority is being asked to review and approve at this time total \$1, 279,756.63. Mr. Overton concluded his report.

Ms. Behm congratulated Mr. Overton for his upcoming induction into the Nashville Public Schools Hall of Fame.

Bridgestone Arena Report

Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Sean Henry to give the Bridgestone Arena Report. Mr. Henry reported that the arena is continuing to enjoy its busiest event year ever. December 2012 proved to be one of the best Decembers on record with events including Aerosmith, the Grammy Nominations, two college basketball games, The Who, Toby Mac, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, and Bassnectar. Despite the absence of 20 lost scheduled Predators games through December, the arena continues to pace well, almost matching the budget and prior year's level of revenues. Mr. Henry reported that Monster Jam had two sold out shows and that sales for Ringling Brothers was up 15% this year despite having one less show. The Predators anticipate their 22nd sell out next week and tickets for Beyonce sold out in 13 minutes. The arena continues to focus on being revenue and service driven and is excited about its results.

With regards to building improvements and renovations, Mr. Henry reported that SSR continues to do an exceptional job on the ecological upgrades that began this fall. Currently they are approximately 1.5 months ahead of schedule and right on budget. With regards to the arena's south entrance renovations, Mr. Henry reported that they've had productive meetings with architects and the Music City Center and that they are about 2 weeks from having schematic drawings of the renovations. Once the schematics are complete they will be able to look at hard costs and bring some plans back to the Authority for further review and questions. Ms. Kim Adkins requested that SSR attend the March meeting to report further on the renovations.

There being no other business, the meeting of the Sports Authority adjourned.