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

Minutes of the November 19, 2014 Meeting of the Board of Directors Bridgestone Arena- Meeting Rooms 8:30 a.m.

Board Members: Kim Adkins, J.D. Elliott, Chuck Meriwether, Bob Obrahta, Ralph Perrey, Ed

Temple, Dudley West, Emmett Wynn

Staff: Toby Compton, Monica Fawknotson, Margaret Darby (Legal)

Titans/ LP Field: Walter Overton, Jenneen Kaufman

Predators/Powers Management: Sean Henry, Jeff Cogen, Kyle Clayton, Michelle Kennedy,

David Kells,

Visitors: Jim McIntyre (Father Ryan High School), Ron Gobbell (Gobbell Hays Partners),

Michele Barbero (Gobbell Hays Partners), Brasher Burbank (Stewart Logistics),

Chairman J.D. Elliott called the meeting of the Sports Authority to order at 8:30 a.m. and reminded all present that the appeals process for decisions by the Authority can be found both on the agenda and on the Authority's website. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Sports Authority unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2014 meeting.** 

# Special Presentation: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Father Ryan/Pearl Basketball Game

Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Jim McIntyre, President of Father Ryan High School, to discuss the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Father Ryan/Pearl High School basketball game. Mr. McIntyre reminded the board that in January 1965 Father Ryan and Pearl High played against each other in what was the first athletic event in the south between a black school and an integrated one. More than 8,700 people from across the region attended. To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event, on January 5, 2015, Father Ryan and Pearl-Cohn High Schools will play each other. The game will be played at Municipal Auditorium and players from the 1965 game will return to be honored. Mr. McIntyre thanked the Sports Authority for its support and promotion of the event, noting that ticket and additional game information can be found at www.fatherryan.org.

## Executive Director's Report

Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Toby Compton to give the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Compton gave a quick overview of the items on the meeting agenda, briefly mentioning that since the September Sports Authority Meeting the city has been selected to host the 2016 NHL All-Star Game and the first and second round games of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament in 2018. Mr. Compton also remarked on the success of Ford Ice Center and the great community support the facility is receiving.

# First Tennessee Park Update

Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Ron Gobbell and Ms. Michelle Barbero to give a ballpark update. Mr. Gobbell thanked the Authority for the opportunity to give another update on the fast-paced project, noting that Opening Day is in 20 weeks and one day. With regards to

infrastructure, Mr. Gobbell reported that since the area has original infrastructure, some utilities have gone in and performed updates, including of a mile of waterlines by Metro Water Services. After showing updated renderings of the club lounge, alternative seating in the outfield, and portions of the greenway, Mr. Gobbell and Ms. Barbero reported that the lights are up and will be energized the beginning of January which will allow for more work around the clock. They additionally reported that over the next few weeks the structural steel will be completed, the concourse and suite concrete flooring will be completed, and the building will be enclosed. Work toward preparing the field will begin in January/February, and the installation of stadium rails and seating will happen in February/March. Mr. Gobbell finished his update by noting that even when the ballpark is complete there will still be a great deal of construction going on in the area with the state projects and other developments.

# Tennessee State Museum Artifact Agreement

Chairman Elliott next recognized Mr. Compton to discuss the Tennessee State Museum Artifact Agreement. Mr. Compton reported that during excavation for the ballpark an area of archaeological findings was discovered in left field. The findings included no human remains or graves, but, rather, were Mississippian Era artifacts of animal bones, clay pottery, and bowls used in industrial fashion with the sulfur springs. The State Archaeologist Office, which was involved in the process along with TRC who monitored the excavation, signed off on the findings which became property of the Sports Authority. The TN State Museum, which has a permanent Mississippian Period Exhibit, will work to transfer artifacts from the Sports Authority to the museum and, in return, the museum will assist with the narrative and curation of monument markers in the greenway that will tell the history of the site. Noted scholar and Native American, Dr. Rex Weeks, will assist with this effort. Mr. Compton stated that the resolution before the Authority provides the gift to the museum and outlines the fact that the museum will work with the ballpark project team to provide a historical report. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Sports Authority voted to approve the resolution.** 

#### Bridgestone Arena Report

Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Sean Henry to give the Bridgestone Arena Report. Mr. Henry began by reporting that, once again, the arena is pacing ahead of budget in its most aggressive budget ever. While September was a solid month, he is especially looking forward to reporting on October and November which included Paul McCartney and the CMA Awards Show. Mr. Henry remarked that not only is the building doing well, but the Predators are off to their best season in franchise history and, as Mr. Compton and Mr. Elliott mentioned earlier, Nashville and Bridgestone Arena will host the 2016 NHL All-Star Game and the 2018 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament first and second round games. Mr. Henry additionally congratulated Mr. David Kells, Vice-President of Booking, on being named IEBA Executive of the Year, and for being nominated for a Pollstar Award along with the Bridgestone Arena's nomination for Arena of the Year.

Mr. Henry continued his report with an update on the success of Ford Ice Center which, after being open for only two months, is averaging 700 kids a weekend during open skate and has over 500 kids playing recreational hockey- 40 of which are the recipients of Vince Gill Scholarships. The Titans have surpassed the \$50,000 they pledged for donations and scholarships to help kids get on the ice who might otherwise not have the opportunity. Ms. Kim Adkins and Ms. Margaret Behm thanked Mr. Henry, Ford Ice and Bridgestone Arena staff, and the Predators for their hard work, creativity, community focus and their willingness to share the arena in order for the city to host other events such as the NCAAs, SECs, and CMAs.

## 2013-2014 Bridgestone Arena Annual Audit

Mr. Compton reported that the Bridgestone Arena Audit for FY2013-2014 has been received and reviewed by Sports Authority staff, the Metro Finance and Legal Departments, Chairman Elliott and Directors Margaret Behm and Ralph Perrey. No significant issues or findings were reported. Chairman Elliott, Ms. Behm and Mr. Perrey each had the opportunity to sit with Ms. Kristina Kirby, Kraft CPA Auditor, to review and ask questions pertaining to the audit. Ms. Kirby agreed that the audit went smoothly, and noted that recommendations made in previous years were cleared in the current audit. Mr. Compton reported that, for the second year in a row, Bridgestone Arena will receive both the incentive fee and performance bonus. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Sports Authority voted to approve the Bridgestone Arena 2013-2014 Audit.** 

## 2013-2014 Stewart Parking Annual Audit

Mr. Compton next turned his focus to the 2013-2014 Stewart Parking Annual Audit, commending Mr. Brasher Burbank, General Manager, and Mr. Eddie Stewart and his team on the work they do in the management of the almost 7400 parking spaces at LP Field. Year over Year both Sports Authority revenue and total revenue are up significantly and, again, Ms. Kristina Kirby reported that this audit also showed no issues or significant findings.

Following Ms. Kirby's comments, Mr. Burbank gave a brief annual report to the Authority, remarking that 2013-2014 was Stewart Parking Solution's best year yet. Revenue projections have increased from projections of \$189,000 in the Request For Proposal (RFP), to \$258,000 in Year One, and \$322,000 in Year Two. To date, disbursements to the Authority total \$342,000 for work on events such as: Parking for "Nashville," Women's Half Marathon, March 4 Babies, Wine on the River, Zac Brown Southern Ground Festival, The Color Run, New Year's Eve Bash, Fourth of July, and many others. Mr. Burbank thanked the Sports Authority for the opportunity to manage its parking operation, noting that Stewart Parking Solutions has moved from a division of its parent company to a corporation with five full-time staff, eight part-time supervisors, and 150 part-time contractors. Mr. Burbank also stated that the management of LP Field has also led to agreements with Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt Athletics, Tennessee State University, Lipscomb University and the CMA. Mr. Ralph Perrey thanked Mr. Burbank

and Stewart Parking Solutions for the great job they do at LP Field. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Sports Authority voted to approve the audit.** 

# LP Field/Titans Report

Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Walter Overton to give the LP Field/Titans Report. Mr. Overton began by thanking Mr. Brasher Burbank and Stewart Parking Solutions for their management of parking at LP Field. He then reported that since the last board meeting LP Field has hosted two Titans games, one of which was the Monday Night Football game against the Steelers. Mr. Overton continued by stating that The Music City Bowl will be played on December 30<sup>th</sup> and has the potential for the best match up yet. After acknowledging Titans CEO Tommy Smith's generous donation of \$250,000 to the YWCA and the Domestic Violence Center as well as the addition of a new production center on LP Field's service level, Mr. Overton ended his report by stating that in January the Titans will look to meet with Sports Authority staff, Mr. Bob Lackey (Metro Finance) and Ms. Margaret Darby to address this year's Capital Reimbursement Requests. Ms. Kim Adkins requested that future Titans Report include a calendar or list of community events occurring at LP Field.

There being no other business the Sports Authority adjourned.