

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

Minutes of the February 27, 2015 Meeting of the Board of Directors
Howard Office Building- Sonny West Conference Room
9:30 a.m.

Board Members: Kim Adkins, Margaret Behm, Cathy Bender, Marcus Currie, J.D. Elliott, Chuck Meriwether, Bob Obrahta, Rip Ryman, Ed Temple, Dudley West, Christie Wilson, Emmett Wynn

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

Titans/ LP Field: Walter Overton, Jenneen Kaufman, Jeff Rhinehart

Predators/Powers Management: Sean Henry, Kyle Clayton, David Kells, Michelle Kennedy, Sean Marshall

Nashville Sounds: Doug Scopel

Visitors: Walter Hunt (Metro Council), Eric Gilmore (Metro Council), Jerry Maynard (Metro Council), Ron Gobbell, Bonna Johnson (Mayor's Office), Michael Cass (Mayor's Office), Dave Corman (MNPD), Eddie Stewart (Stewart Logistics), Brasher Burbank (Stewart Parking Solutions), Chase Oeser (Stewart Parking Solutions), Tom Turner (Downtown Partnership), Russell Payne (Downtown Partnership), Media Outlets (WKRN, WSMV)

Chairman J.D. Elliott called the meeting of the Sports Authority to order at 9:30 a.m., welcomed all in attendance, and reminded everyone 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 January 21, 2015 meeting.**

Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Toby Compton to give the Executive Director's Report. After briefly reviewing the meeting agenda, Mr. Compton thanked the Board for its willingness to reschedule last week's meeting which was postponed due to inclement weather, and noted that instead of a formal report at the beginning, he will provide his comments as the board moves through each agenda item.

FY16 Metro Sports Authority Budget

Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Compton to present the Authority's FY16 departmental budget. Mr. Compton explained that each year the Authority is asked to approve a department budget that is then submitted to Metro Finance. The Finance Department has challenged all Metro departments to reduce their FY16 budgets by 3%. Since most of the Sports Authority's \$678,500 budget is comprised of insurance premiums and internal service fees which are not subject to cut, the 3% of the department's discretionary spending that is subject to reductions totals \$7,800. Mr. Compton noted that the Authority expects to finish the current fiscal year at or below budget, and stated that while the proposed cuts to the areas noted in the presentation will not adversely impact service or staff, the addition of new facilities and other needs means additional funding in future fiscal years will be needed. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Sports Authority voted to approve the department's proposed FY16 budget of \$669,700.**

Bridgestone Arena/Nashville Predators Report

After congratulating Mr. Sean Henry and his staff on being named “Arena of the Year” by Pollstar as well as the Predators who are ranked first in the NHL, Mr. Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Sean Henry to give the Bridgestone Arena Report. Mr. Henry returned the congratulatory remarks to the Authority, and stated that while the arena has made fundamental changes over the past 4.5 years it has stayed true to Chairman Tom Cigarran’s one goal of being the best venue in America built around a Stanley Cup Championship Team. He continued by reporting that currently the Predators are well positioned for the play offs and that, budget-wise, Bridgestone Arena is tracking ahead of its current year budget and closing the gap on last year’s budget. Upcoming events include the SEC Basketball Tournament, two Kenny Chesney shows, Fleetwood Mac, and Bob Seger. Mr. Henry additionally noted that they are getting ready to announce two of the biggest shows the arena’s hosted in 4 years.

Bridgestone Arena FY16 Budget

Following Mr. Henry’s arena report, the Sports Authority turned its attention to the arena’s proposed FY16 budget, which Mr. Compton noted was submitted to the Authority around Thanksgiving and is similar to the arena’s FY14 and FY15 budgets. The budget has been reviewed by Bob Lackey and Metro Finance Director Rich Riebeling. Mr. Henry added that the FY16 budget is the second most aggressive budget they have submitted to the Authority and does not consider revenue resulting from potential playoff games. He also reported that this is the fifth year that Bridgestone Arena has not submitted any items to be included in Metro’s Capital Budget. **Members of the Authority commended Mr. Henry and Bridgestone Arena for their hard work and resulting successes and, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Sports Authority voted to approve the Bridgestone Arena FY16 Operating Budget.**

CIF Request- Bridgestone Arena Seating

Mr. Henry continued by reminding the Board that three years ago the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) began with the goal of taking care of the arena’s long term needs. The concourse and other areas of the arena once again look new, and now it is time to focus some efforts on the arena bowl- starting with seat replacement. This summer the project is scheduled to begin and the first 13 rows of telescopic seating will be replaced. This will significantly reduce the amount of time it takes to reconfigure the arena for various shows. Following this initial project the remainder of the lower bowl seats will be replaced with seats chosen by fans, the down aisle steps will be redone, and new concrete caps will be installed. Summer of 2016 the club level and upper bowl will receive the same makeover. Mr. Henry reported that the total project will yield the addition of 70 seats, 1,000 seats will be larger, and there will be ADA seats on the ice. Total project cost is \$6 million, \$4 million being requested now and the remaining \$1.7-1.8 million to be requested next year. Arena officials project there will be enough money in the CIF to cover the project by May, but stated that the Predators will fund the project in the event of the shortfall, reimbursing themselves once there is enough money in the CIF. Mr. Compton added that this project has been discussed internally for years and noted that installation will happen around the concert schedule and that no shows have been turned down due to the project. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Sports Authority voted to approve Bridgestone Arena’s request for seating and telescopic platforms replacement.**

LP Field Report

After recognizing Mr. Walter Overton to give the LP Field Report, Chairman Elliott acknowledged the resignation of Titans Executive Vice-President, Mr. Don Maclachlan, and expressed the Sports Authority's gratitude and appreciation for his service to the organization and his relationship with the Board. Mr. Overton reiterated Chairman Elliott's sentiments before reporting that the Titans have decided to install a diesel line, as opposed to their initial plan for a natural gas line, to be used in the event of loss of power at LP Field. The diesel line is more cost effective. Mr. Overton additionally reported that the Titans heard a presentation from Metro Water Services Director, Scott Potter on the new flood wall that will be constructed between First Avenue and Cumberland River to protect the city in the event of a flood. The Titans are comfortable that this poses no threat to LP Field.

Mr. Overton continued by reporting that February's ice and snow storm resulted in water penetrating some of the suite and club areas. The Titans will submit a claim to Metro Insurance through the casualty loss process, and Mr. Overton is thankful the damage wasn't worse than what it was.

Mr. Overton turned his attention to capital expenses, stating that the reimbursement requests have been reviewed and that the Titans are gathering additional information on a couple of items in response to some questions raised by Metro Legal and Finance. He expects this information will be ready for the board by the March meeting.

After thanking Titans CFO Jenneen Kaufmann for arranging the board tour of St. Thomas Sports Park, Ms. Margaret Behm questioned the reason for the disparity between the number of consecutive sell outs reported by the Titans and the number of people that can be counted in the stands. She requested that the Titans report on what the organization is doing in regards to its sales/marketing effort at the March meeting. Ms. Kim Adkins expressed her disappointment with the Titans decision to not provide a written report for the board meeting and strongly urged the organization to communicate more effectively with the board and the community.

First Tennessee Park Update

Chairman Elliott paused to acknowledge and welcome the following Metro Council Members in attendance: Eric Gilmore, Jerry Maynard, and Walter Hunt. After thanking them for coming, Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Ron Gobbell to give the ballpark update. Mr. Gobbell thanked the members of the Authority for participating in the ballpark tour several weeks ago. After showing various aerial shots he reported that permanent heat is on in more than half of the building, Jackson Street is being poured, and that the seats will be completed next month. Mr. Gobbell additionally reported that the score board is going up, the LED boards are in, concessions equipment is being installed, and the batting cages are in. Mr. Doug Scopel reported that the grass is a Bermuda over-seeded with Rye that has been growing in Florida since last August. He also stated that an excellent subgrade drainage system has been installed. Finally, Mr. Gobbell reminded the Authority that when First Tennessee Park opens in 49 days the area will still be a construction zone as the Embrey, State Garage, and the Sulphur Dell Mixed- Use projects are still underway.

First Tennessee Park Traffic and Parking Plan

Chairman Elliott recognized Mr. Compton to announce the ballpark traffic and parking plan. Mr. Compton began by noting the reason a parking plan is necessary is because the state parking garage will not be completed by Opening Day as originally hoped. When the city realized that the garage would not be a parking option this spring officials from the Sports Authority, MNPD, Public Works, and the Mayor's Office assembled to create a traffic & parking plan. Mr. Compton reported that the plan is intended for the general public and pin points specific places the public can park. He noted that there is an array of affordable, convenient options which include:

- The Metro Courthouse Parking Garage which will allow fans to park at the courthouse and take a five-minute shuttle ride to the front entrance of the ball park for \$5.
- The option to park in one of the 1900 free spaces within a short walk of the ballpark.
Private parking
- Any of the 6,100 (public and private) within ½ mile of the ballpark (not including the downtown core).

Mr. Russell Payne of the Nashville Downtown Partnership continued by stating that in addition to the 800 spaces available in the Metro Courthouse Garage, and the other parking options Mr. Compton mentioned, there will be a Bicycle station at First Tennessee Park and free rides to the ballpark will be offered on Opening Day. The Nashville Downtown Partnership is developing a parking feature through its website (which will also be linked to the Sounds website) that will take visitors to a shot that will show all free and paid parking in the area. Mr. Doug Scopel noted that a separate parking plan will go out to Sounds staff and season ticket holders.

MNPD Commander Jason Reinbold reported that Metro Police are committed to staffing each Sounds home game and ensuring the safety of those inside and outside the ballpark. The MNPD traffic plan will not divert traffic and calls for all streets to remain open. The plan will be operated by one lieutenant, two sergeants, and 18 officers. It will be updated as needed.

Mr. Compton noted that while each parking lot will have ADA spaces, there will also be an ADA lot near the ballpark for added convenience. He additionally encouraged the public to go to the Nashville Downtown Partnership, Music City Circuit, and the Sports Authority websites for additional information.

Mr. Dudley West requested additional information as to the reason why the state garage was delayed and asked that a representative from the state come to the Authority's March Meeting. Mr. Compton replied that he would reach out to the state

Finally, Mr. Compton reminded everyone that the number of people that will need parking for events at First Tennessee is half the number of those who need it for events at Bridgestone Arena and 1/7 of those who need it for Titan's games. With patience and cooperation things will go well.

Chairman Elliott thanked the staff for their work and, there being no other business, the meeting adjourned.