

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

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 19, 2022 | 10:30 am
First Horizon Park - Brauer Lounge**

Attendees

Members: Cathy Bender (Chair), Frank Harrison (Vice-Chair), Kim Adkins, Don Deering, Jad Duncan, Glenn Farner, Melvin Gill, Dan Hogan, Aaron McGee, Winston Justice, Anna Page

Staff: Monica Fawknorton (ED), Melissa Wells, Valda Barksdale, Lexie Ward (Metro Legal), Derek Moore (Intern)

Visitors: Adam English (Sounds), Arnett Bodenhamer, Brett Withers (Metro Council), Burke Nihill (Titans), Candice Storey Lee (Title IX Spotlight), Carol Greenlee, Dinah Wells (PMC), Doug Scopel (Sounds), Jeff Hem (Sounds), John Agee (Terracon), Katie Cafiero (Preds), Kellen DeCoursey (Titans), Russell Payne (NDP), Shannon Myers (Titans), Tee McCarley (PMC), Will Traylor (Mortenson)

Call to Order

Chair Bender called the meeting to order by welcoming all to First Horizon Park and thanking the staff for hosting. Chair Bender also acknowledged the reappointment of Directors Kim Adkins and Aaron McGee. She also reported that Director Adkins has agreed to chair the Women's Professional Sports Ad hoc Committee. Chair Bender welcomed new board member Winston Justice, a former NFL player who was appointed by the mayor and serves as VP & Investment Advisor at Bernstein Private Wealth Management.

Consider Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2022 Meeting

Chair Bender asked if there were additions or corrections to the April 21, 2022 meeting minutes. **There being none, upon a motion made by Director Deering and seconded by Director Farner, the board approved the minutes from the April 21, 2022 meeting.**

Executive Director's Report

Chair Bender recognized ED Fawknorton to provide the Executive Director's report. After briefly summarizing the meeting's agenda, ED Fawknorton reported that Derek Moore approached the Sports Authority with hopes of serving as an intern while completing his Sports Management degree at Belmont University. Internships are a critical component to the college experience and the partnership will be a great value for Mr. Moore's training experience and for the Sports Authority. Mr. Moore will be in the office two days per week, ED Fawknorton reported.

ED Fawknorton further reported that CAA ICON, the consultants for the WPSI are finalizing materials that will be presented to the WNBA and the NWSL. Included in those materials will be letters of support from the Mayor's Office, Nashville Conventions & Visitors Corporation, Nashville Predators, Tennessee Titans, and Nashville SC. Both the WNBA and the NWSL are considering league expansion and Nashville is positioned to be a top contender.

Title IX Spotlight: Candice Storey Lee, Vice Chancellor of Athletics & University Affairs and Athletics Director, Vanderbilt University

ED Fawknorton reported that since August the Sports Authority has been honoring Nashvillians who have impacted girls/women's sports with a Spotlight Series. In continuing the year-long celebration of the upcoming 50th anniversary of Title IX, today we honor Dr. Lee for her trailblazing contributions to

sports. A resolution, read by Director Farner highlighted some of her achievements including five-time SEC Academic Honor Roll student athlete, serving as Senior Woman Athletics Administrator from 2004 – 2020 at Vanderbilt University, named the 2021 Peabody College Distinguished Alumna and a member of the 2022 Class of the Huntsville-Madison County, Alabama Athletic Hall of Fame.

Followed by a video recognizing Dr. Lee as the first female and woman of color to head an SEC athletics department, she was interviewed by Director McGee. Dr. Lee reflected on being a person of faith which drives her to fulfill her mission of purpose. She commented on embracing leadership with the goal of having a positive impact on those within her reach and her gratefulness to the pioneers and trailblazer before her who made the space better for her and many others. In closing, Dr. Lee expressed her appreciation for the opportunities created for all people by Title IX and her privilege to participate in events that are significant moments in the lives of others, especially students.

Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Chair Frank Harrison reported that the committee, at its meeting earlier in the morning, heard a report on Nissan Stadium from Titans CFO Shannon Meyers and CEO Burke Nihil. Ms. Meyers gave updates on the outstanding receivable which has increased from \$27.3m to \$28.7m, noted completed projects including elevator repairs, security video surveillance system and touchless water fountains. She also reported on four anticipated projects (replacement of carpet, the Point-of-Sale Credit Card Reading Systems, EMT Club Car Transporters, and installation of permanent electrical power for security scanners).

Chair Harrison also reported that auditor Chad Moore with Ernst & Young (EY) provided a summary of the Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) \$3 User Fee during the Finance meeting. All records and statements were satisfactory and in accordance with auditing procedures and records.

Mr. Nihill summarized his committee report, stating that the expiration of the current lease between the Sports Authority and the Titans is 2029 with an extension option through 2039. Under the current lease, the Sports Authority is responsible for capital project expenses in order to keep the stadium in pace with comparable facilities. Two independent contractors estimated that the cost for ongoing building repair through 2026 is approximately \$918m and the anticipated cost is \$894m for maintenance and upgrades from 2026 through 2039.

Continuing his report, Mr. Nihill stated that the state of Tennessee has committed to a \$500m contribution and has also helped enable Metro Nashville Government to add a 1% hotel occupancy tax committed to the stadium. Both fundings are conditional upon the structure having a roof. Current private commitments from the owners include \$700m which may possibly increase. Discussions are also underway with the team, the NFL and vendors about committing capital to the stadium project to help offset some of cost. The estimated cost for a new building is between \$1.9b and \$2.2b.

Director Gill questioned whether the Titans organization has considered financing the facility similar to other states where the taxpayers did not bear the cost. He also questioned whether the city will be able to generate funds from hotel occupancy tax to substantially impact the cost and remove the burden from the taxpayer. Mr. Nihill responded that the verbiage of the current lease is the problem for the taxpayer

considering the poor condition of the building. The goal is to find a solution and sources to fund the stadium without raising taxpayer property nor sales taxes.

Nashville Downtown Partnership Update

Russell Payne, COO, Nashville Downtown Partnership (NDP) reported that their agreement with the Sports Authority provides free use of certain parking lots controlled by the Sports Authority to operate a downtown shuttle service. The partnership was designed to reduce the stress of limited parking inventory in the downtown area.

Mr. Payne reported that NDP has provided 20 years of service operating from Nissan Stadium lots A, B, D, F, R and T. It utilizes 31 shuttles servicing approximately 4,400 users for seven daytime routes. Lot E is used as an alternate option for those wanting to walk to work. Continuing his report, Mr. Payne stated each shuttle removes about 153 cars from Nashville's internal downtown loop which offers an economic parking solution by utilizing parking lots which would otherwise be unused during business hours. NDP also provides management, maintenance and full-time security.

Best Ever Event Parking (BEEP) was reactivated in December 2021 after a pause due to Cov-19, Mr. Payne noted. Since its inception, BEEP has serviced 1,151 events by providing 250k passengers with shuttle service. The shuttle service has included trips for Bridgestone Arena vendors & employers as well as special events such as SEC basketball, NCAA Tournaments, NHL All Star events, the NFL Draft & Playoffs and Stanley Cup Viewing parties.

Director Gil questioned whether the NDP could provide parking and shuttle service for Geodis Park to which Mr. Payne stated there have been discussions and they are happy to work with Geodis Park. At this time no arrangements have been solidified. Director Hogan inquired whether there have been discussions for alternate plans in consideration of Nissan Stadium's plans to renovate or build and what would be the minimum number of parking spaces needed to operate. Mr. Payne responded that they have requested parking accommodations during the construction and are also prepared to relocate the parkers. Approximately 2,500 parking spaces will be required to operate at current capacity. Director Adkins inquired whether operations had returned to pre-covid levels to which Mr. Payne stated no due to many employers operating on hybrid schedules where many employees continue to work from home 2-3 days per week.

In closing Mr. Payne reported growth is anticipated for 2022 as hotels, businesses and event planners continue to look for flexible parking options in the downtown area.

Facility Questions

There were no questions presented for the facilities.

First Horizon Park Report

Adam English, General Manager/COO of the Nashville Sounds, began his report by sharing photos of the various entertainment venues at the park. Highlights included the Band Box fun area for families, Nine Hole Mini Golf Course where each course was designed by a different local artist, Ping Pong and Corn Hole. In honor of Norman Turkey Stearnes, who played for the Detroit Monarch in the Negro League and is the only native born Nashvillian in the Baseball Hall of Fame, the organization gave away t-shirts and jerseys in celebration of his contributions to baseball.

Mr. English also reported on several Community Initiatives including Pop-up baseball clinics at local elementary schools, \$2,500 educational scholarships with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion for area students, Crossroads Camps for hearing impaired youth and COPA De La Diversion which focuses on engagement with the Hispanic community. The Nine Initiative, he reported, is designed to honor and celebrate the impact of Black baseball pioneers (number nine was the jersey worn by Jackie Robinson as a player in the Minor Leagues). Its Steering Committee is partnering with Nashville HBCUs for an executive training program which provides opportunities to youth to learn about the business of baseball.

Jeff Helm, Director of Broadcasting for the Sounds, reported that this has been one of the best seasons with 26 wins and 11 losses, the highest win total in all of MiLB and the only Sounds team to begin its season by winning five series in a row. He also highlighted some of the players:

- MLB named Ethan Small the International League's April pitcher of the month after posting 2-0 record and .77 ERA in five starts
- Brice Turang was named April player of the month after hitting .313 with 2 HR and 14 RBIs in twenty games
- Sounds pitcher Peter Strzelecki was named the Brewers organization's April pitcher of the month after posting a 1.04 ERA with 11 strikeouts in 8 relief appearances
- Outfielder Jonathan Davis' spectacular catch in the 7th inning against the Louisville Bats on May 18th was the number one play on ESPN's SportsCenter nightly top ten
- NS manager Rick Sweet is entering tonight's game being one game shy to tie for 7th place in all time MiLB managerial wins. Mr. Sweet's winning record is 2,127 compared to a 2,128 record for Larry Gilbert, former Nashville Vols manager.

Additionally, Mr. Helm reported, the Sounds rank 2nd in MiLB attendance and have averaged nearly 5,500 fans per game.

Adjourn

Chair Bender reported that the next regularly scheduled board meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m. on June 16, 2022 at Nissan Stadium. Staff will keep all posted on whether a Finance Committee meeting will convene earlier that day. The Personnel Committee will also meet in June to conduct the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director. Staff will reach out to members of the Personnel Committee to confirm a date and location.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Valda Barksdale, The Metro Sports Authority

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYcU4_THFhM

<https://metronashville.sharepoint.com/sites/SportsAuthority/Shared Documents/P-Drive-Sports Authority/SA BOARD/SA Board Materials/FY22/2022 June 16 Board Meeting/Minutes 2022 May 19WORKING.docx>