

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

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday June 16, 2022 | 10:30 am
Nissan Stadium - Press Box**

Attendees

Members: Cathy Bender (Chair), Don Deering, Jad Duncan, Melvin Gill, Dan Hogan, Winston Justice, Aaron McGee, Anna Page, Michael Zerah

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

Visitors: John Agee (Terracon), Diamond Bell (Standup Nashville), Tim Bewley (PMC), Arnett Bodenhamer (Former SA BOD), Michell Bosch (Metro Finance), Brasher Burbank (PMC), Donna Butler (Preds), Katie Cafiero (Preds), Mary Cavarra (Ingram), Kyle Clayton (Preds), Adam English (Sounds), Ross Florey (5th3rd Bank), Bob Flynn (Titans), Ron Gobbell (GHP), Carol Greenlee (Mortenson Messer JV), Kate Guerra (Titans), Peter Heidenreich (Hall Strategies), Nickie Jennings (WSMV-TV), Mike Keith (Titans), Joe Kennedy (Nashville SC), Shannon Myers (Titans), Sean Parker (Metro Council), Delishia Porterfield (Metro Council), Doug Scopel (Sounds), Will Traylor (Mortenson), David Urso (Preds), Shelten Romel Vieav (Barton Malow Builders), Dinah Wells (PMC), Jeremiah Wooten (Nashville Resident),

Call to Order

Chair Bender called the meeting to order by welcoming all to Nissan Stadium and thanking the Titans for hosting. Chair Bender welcomed and introduced new board member Michael Zerah, co-founder/head of marketing for Mullie Golf Company who was appointed by Mayor Cooper and confirmed by the Metro Council on May 5. Director Zerah is a proven entrepreneur who successfully built and exited LUCID APPEAL, a mobile-first technology company. At LUCID APPEAL Director Zerah helped the world's elite brands in sports to assemble their official mobile applications and successful mobile marketing campaigns. Following the sale of LUCID APPEAL, Director Zerah advised in marketing for international sports brands including Los Angeles Laker, LA Clippers, Washington Football Team, Bubba Watson, All Access Golf & Travel Experiences and Wilson Golf. 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 and that new member Winston Justice has agreed to serve on the Finance Committee

Consider Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2022 Meeting

Chair Bender asked if there were additions or corrections to the May 19, 2022 meeting minutes. **There being none, upon a motion made by Director Deering and seconded by Director McGee, the board approved the minutes from the April 21, 2022 meeting.**

Title IX Spotlight

ED Fawknorton reported that the 50th anniversary of Title IX was one week away and noted that the Sports Authority's year-long celebration and Title IX spotlight series was coming to an end. Over the past year the Authority has honored trailblazers such as Chandra Cheeseborough, Cathy Bender, Ed Temple, Carolyn Peck, Betty Wiseman, Betty Giles, and Candice Storey Lee for their contributions to

women's sports. ED Fawknorton stated that many other Tennesseans including Marynell Meadors, The TSU Tigerbelles, Tracey Caulkins, Nashville Business College and Pat Summit deserve to be recognized mention for their influence and impact on women's sports. Additionally, a QR code was shared for the Tennessee Sports History Driving Tour which chronicles women's athletics before and after the passage of Title IX.

To close out the Title IX Spotlight Series, a video produced by intern Derek Moore was shown highlighting notable moments from the series.

Executive Director's Report

After briefly summarizing the meeting's agenda, ED Fawknorton reported that she attended and participated in a panel discussion at the Convention, Sports and Entertainment Facilities Conference in Tampa, FL. There continues to be considerable interest in Nashville, projects like Geodis Park and plans for the redevelopment of the East Bank and Nissan Stadium.

ED Fawknorton thanked Director Deering, Sports Authority liaison for First Horizon Park, for attending the Metro Council Meeting as well as the Budget & Finance Committee earlier in the week (along with Nashville Sounds GM Adam English) to answer any potential budget questions related to First Horizon Park. Director Deering commented that District 6 Council Member Brett Withers complimented the good work of the Sports Authority board and encouraged all council members to attend a board meeting.

Next, ED Fawknorton gave an update on the Women's Professional Sports Initiative (WPSI). The Authority's consultant, CAAICON, is close to finalizing presentations for the WNBA and NWSL which include letters of support from our sports teams, the Nashville Conventions & Visitors Corporation (NCVC), the Nashville Sports Council (NSC), the Mayor's Office and Council Member Van Reece. Lastly, ED Fawknorton reported that the roof repairs at First Horizon Park are close to being completed. The only remaining project is to add masonry tape. Additionally, what was thought to be new leaks were actually confirmed to be condensation following an inspection.

Director Hogan questioned whether there was anything the board can do to engage support for the Women's Professional Sports Initiative. ED Fawknorton noted that considerable amount of community support and media attention the effort has garnered and reported that the Ad Hoc Committee and Advisory committee will continue to examine the best ways to continue to move forward.

Personnel Committee Report

Committee Chair, Cathy Bender reported that the Personnel Committee met on June 2 to perform the annual evaluation of the Executive Director. The discussion included highlights and challenges from the past year including rebounding from the Covid pandemic and the successful opening of Geodis Park. Continuing the report, Chair Bender noted that the committee is extremely pleased with ED Fawknorton's leadership, prompt communication with the board and how she represents the board to the media. The Personnel Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of a 3% merit increase and 4% cost of living adjustment to the Executive Director's salary, both of which are recommended in the mayor's proposed budget for Metro employees that qualify. The increase is contingent upon approval of the budget by the Metro Council. Director Hogan questioned whether the board has any flexibility to increase the salary above the recommendation to which Chair Bender noted that this question was raised last year and the board has limited flexibility (primarily due to budget constraints) to increase the salary above what Metro will fund.

Upon a motion made by Director Gill and seconded by Director McGee, the board approved a 3% merit increase and 4% cost of living adjustment to the Executive Director's salary.

Chair Bender continued her report, noting that the Personnel Committee also discussed the Sports Authority first intern, Derek Moore (Belmont University, Master's in Sports Management) and the benefits of continuing the program with other college students in the future. The committee also discussed and noted its support of transitioning Finance Consultant Bob Lackey from temporary part-time to permanent part-time. This recommendation from staff will come to the Finance Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

Geodis Park / Nashville SC Report

Carol Greenlee, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator for Mortenson Messer Joint Venture, gave a walk-through of the DBE journey at Geodis Park. She reported there was only one minor injury during the entire project. The DBE & Workforce Diversity participation target was 30%, however the project achieved 36% with 81 DBE firms receiving payments totaling over \$74 million. 52 of the DBEs were Tennessee based. She additionally reported that the goal for Women & Minority Craft Hours was 22%, achieved 48%. 76% of total workers were Tennessee residents.

Ms. Greenlee further reported that CAAICON, Nashville Soccer Club, The Fairgrounds, Council Member Colby Sledge and the Sports Authority Board collaborated on community engagement and outreach activities including quarterly neighborhood information sessions. Additional activities included upgrades to playgrounds, fundraising over \$10k with 100% donated to schools, walk-ways power washed and painting of exterior areas at the local neighborhood elementary schools plus a visit from NSC mascot Tempo the Coyote. The success was a team effort and a labor of love.

Mary Cavarra, CFO Ingram Industries, gave the final report on construction of Geodis Park which opened on May 1, 2022 with over 30k fans. Construction of the stadium was budgeted at \$354MM and the final cost is estimated at \$326MM. Additionally, she reported the project was completed seven weeks earlier than initially projected and Mortenson Messer has closed out 90% of the subcontractor jobs. There are a few light fixture repairs needed because of tornado damage and several sodding strips to be installed soon.

Ms. Cavarra next reported that the revenue bond payment of \$3.1MM interest-only is due August 1, 2022. She reported that the bond is funded by capitalized interest, sales and ticket taxes. The next revenue bond interest-only payment is due February 2023; principle payments will begin in 2024. Under the lease agreement with the Sports Authority, Geodis Park rent payments will also support the revenue bond debt payments. Director Hogan questioned whether the difference between the budgeted amount and final estimated cost is a \$28MM cash surplus or a bond reduction. Ms. Cavarra responded that the proceeds from the revenue bond netted \$214MM and the difference is the cash which the team paid to cover the cost of construction. Director Gill inquired about Geodis Park's plans to manage the grass & vegetation growing on the outside of the fence line. Ms. Cavarra responded that there are well defined boundary lines which separate Geodis Park from the Fairgrounds and residential properties. Those areas outside of Geodis Park's boundaries will be addressed by the individual property owners. Director Gill further inquired about the poor reception outside the stadium; he had difficulty scheduling a ride share. Technology and infrastructure are being tweaked and modified to improve cell phone tower signals with the various carriers which will greatly improve reception reported Ms. Cavarra. Director Gill also inquired about the distance from the stadium to the bus lines to which Ms. Cavarra commented it is about 1/8 of a mile and once the infrastructure is complete the bus stop proximity will

be resolved. She further stated that they are discussing with WeGo Bus Lines the possibility of their company implementing weekend service near Geodis Park.

Facility Questions

There were no questions presented for the facilities.

Nissan Stadium Report

Shannon Myers, CFO for the Tennessee Titans gave an update on additional capital expenditures occurring since the last board meeting. The installation of digital countdown clocks was completed at a cost of \$11,863 which was slightly under the estimated price of \$12k. Ongoing projects where monies have been spent within the past month include application of phase 2 of the water infiltration (\$506,658 paid thus far) and installation of Point-of-Sale Systems (\$156,752 paid thus far). The current receivables balance is now at \$29.4m. Ms. Myers further reported that one anticipated expenditure is the installation of egress/ingress doors outside of the east and west club lobby doors to improve the congested traffic flow on game and concert days. The cost estimate is \$40 and the goal is to have the doors installed prior to the next Titans game.

Mike Keith, Vice President of Broadcasting/Voice of the Titans reported on various areas where the Titans have improved during the off season. The team will return to training camp July 26 with a strong offensive and defensive team. The Titans have drafted and re-signed several players who bring exceptional talent to the team and there are several players returning from injuries who have outstanding skills and are highly motivated. The Titans have a track record of six straight winning seasons with playoff appearances in four of the last five years.

Adjourn

Chair Bender reported that the next regularly scheduled board meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m. on July 21, 2022 at Bridgestone Arena. Staff will keep all posted on whether a Finance Committee meeting will convene earlier that day.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Valda Barksdale, The Metro Sports Authority

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/2H7WWEH0udE>

<https://metronashville.sharepoint.com/sites/SportsAuthority/Shared Documents/P-Drive-Sports Authority/SA BOARD/SA Board Materials/FY23/2022 July 21 Board Meetings/Minutes 2022 June 16Working.docx>