

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

**Minutes of November 18, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting
Bridgestone Arena – Loyal Legion Meeting Room
10:30 a.m.**

Board Members: Cathy Bender (Chair), Frank Harrison (Vice-Chair), Emmett Wynn (Secretary/Treasurer), Kim Adkins, Margaret Behm, Don Deering, Jad Duncan, Melvin Gill, Jon Glassmeyer, Dan Hogan, Anna Page

Staff: Monica Fawknorton, Quinton Herring, Bob Lackey, Melissa Wells, Margaret Darby (Legal), Josh Thomas (Legal)

Titans/ Nissan Stadium: Adolpho Birch

Predators/ Ford Ice Center: Danny Butler, Kyle Clayton, Keith Hegger, Sean Henry, Michelle Kennedy, David Kells, Rebecca King, Bill Wickett

Sounds/ First Tennessee Park: Doug Scopel, Adam English

Nashville SC: Ian Ayre, Mary Cavarra, Joe Kennedy

Visitors: Brent Beardslee (CAA/ICON), Kellen DeCoursey (CAA/ICON), Carol Greenlee (Mortenson/Messer), Mary Lackey, James O'Brien, Carolyn Peck, Jim Pustejovsky (Capital Project Solutions), Bryan Slater (CAA/ICON), Nancy VanReece (Metro Council)

Chair Bender called the meeting of the Sports Authority Board of Directors to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Consider Approval of Minutes from October 21, 2021, Board Meeting

Upon a motion made by Director Deering and seconded by Director Duncan, the Board approved the minutes from the October 21, 2021, Board meeting.

Title IX Spotlight: Carolyn Peck

Chair Bender recognized the Title IX Spotlight for November, Carolyn Peck. She shared that Ms. Peck is a fellow Vanderbilt Commodore, National Championship Division I coach, a member of the Women's Sports Advisory Committee, and is currently an ESPN basketball analyst. Director Hogan read the resolution honoring Ms. Peck, and a video clip was shared. Director Behm interviewed Ms. Peck. She grew up in Jefferson City, Tennessee, where her father worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority and her mother was an educator, teaching at Carson- Newman University, the University of Tennessee, and local schools. In 1999 Peck became the first African-American coach to win a women's basketball national championship. In 2015 she gave a piece of her title-winning net to Dawn Staley, a token intended to inspire Staley in her quest to win a national title. In 2017, Coach Staley's team won the National Championship, she had kept the net and took it to another level, sending it out to over seventy-four African American women to inspire and motivate them. Ms. Peck had been quoted as

saying: “you never have a first, unless you have a second.” She thanked the Women’s Professional Sports Initiative for its efforts to bring a professional women’s team to Nashville.

Executive Director’s Report

Chair Bender recognized Monica Fawknotson to provide the Executive Director’s report. She shared that filling the open administrative position has been challenging and that the right candidate has not yet been found. Metro HR is working with the department and the position will be posted again. Ms. Fawknotson continued by noting that the FY23 budget season is right around the corner and the Finance Committee will likely meet in January. She elaborated that Metro has a new Finance Director, Kelly Flannery, who previously served as the CFO for the City of Charlotte and Deputy CFO for the City of Chicago. Finally, Ms. Fawknotson shared that she recently presented an update on the Sports Authority’s facilities to the Metro Council Public Facilities, Arts, and Culture Committee, of which Nancy VanReece (in attendance) is Vice-Chair.

Women’s Sports Ad Hoc Committee Update

Director Behm provided an update on the work of the Women’s Sports Ad Hoc Committee, reporting that there has been a terrific response to the Title IX spotlights, including the videos and interviews. Spotlights will continue up to the Anniversary in June 2022. The committee continues to work with our CAAICON consultant, Bryan Slater. The committee has reached out to a number of our local partners to assist with the distribution of a marketing survey around November 30, 2021. She thanked the partners that are assisting with the distribution—the Predators, the Sounds, the athletic departments of Lipscomb, Vanderbilt, Belmont, Middle Tennessee State, and Tennessee State Universities, as well as the Nashville Conventions and Visitors Corporation, YWCA, Cable Nashville, Chamber of Commerce, and others. Director Behm noted the strong response from the community and reported that the consultants are also putting together an economic impact study. There will be an Ad Hoc Committee meeting on January 12, 2021, and all are invited. Director Behm thanked Margaret Darby, Sports Authority attorney, for all she has done for this committee.

Chair Bender thanked Director Behm for all the work she is doing for the Ad Hoc Committee.

Director Adkins welcomed Bob Lackey back.

Nashville SC/MLS Stadium Update

Director Bender recognized Carol Greenlee (Mortenson/Messer) to provide an update on the MLS Stadium’s safety record and DBE participation. Ms. Greenlee shared that the project is making very good progress. There have been 656,795 total project hours to-date which represents 414 days with no injuries. In addition, there is a 30% DBE goal on the project set by Metro’s Office of Minority and Women Business Assistance, currently 36% of the work has been awarded to DBE firms representing over \$74M. In addition, she recognized Southeastern Constructors, LLC, a minority owned mechanical contracting firm that is working on the stadium.

Mary Cavarra (Nashville SC) provided an update on the stadium construction. She shared that Kellen Decoursey will be leaving to go to work for the Titans and that Brent Beardslee will be moving into his position. The stadium project continues to make excellent progress. There are currently over 600 workers on site and the safety record is quite remarkable. The exterior work on the south area is nearly complete and Natural grass will be installed in March. Ms. Cavarra additionally reported that the project remains on budget, with \$42M paid to date by Walsh Management and \$191M paid with Metro issued revenue bonds. The substantial completion date has been moved up to April 2022 which will allow all home games to be played in the new stadium. Parking and a preliminary transportation plan that is being worked on will be shared at the January Board meeting, a great effort is being made to try to minimize the impact on the neighborhood. The Team has qualified for the playoffs and will host its first playoff match at Nissan Stadium against Orlando City SC. The team qualified for the playoffs both last year and this year- a major accomplishment for a new team.

Consider approval of a Resolution pertaining to a request pursuant to Section 9(b) of the Lease Agreement between the Sports Authority of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County and Walsh Management

Ms. Cavarra announced that, under the terms of the stadium lease, the team is required to get the Authority's approval prior to naming areas of the stadium. The team requested approval to name the two center gates on the east side "Hyundai Gates" and the terrace on the northwest corner of the second level, "Transcard Terrace". Transcard is a global payment technology processing company located in Chattanooga.

Chair Bender advised the Board that they cannot withhold approval of the naming rights unless a name is controversial or offensive.

Upon a motion made by Director Adkins and seconded by Director Duncan, the Authority voted unanimously to approve a resolution approving the naming of the center gates and northwest terrace.

Facility Questions

Chair Bender recognized Jim Pustejovsky (Capital Project Solutions) to provide an update on the needed roof repairs at First Horizon Park. An architectural firm has reviewed the damage and determined that the installation was not the problem; the damage was caused by the high winds from a storm they do not believe was the March 2020 tornado. The firm also confirmed that the ponding area had maximum pitch. The sealant—did not fail during the tornado, but the tear was wind caused by winds. The scope of work for the repairs is going out to five Metro roofing contractors and a mini-RFP will be issued. Director Adkins asked for clarification that additional due diligence has been done and there wasn't any type of installation failure. Mr. Pustejovsky confirmed that a roofing contractor, engineer, and an architect all concur that the damage was due to the storm damage. Director Deering asked for confirmation that there is a clause in the contract that requires a yearly check of the roof. Margaret Darby advised that Legal will get back to the Board with that information.

Nashville Predators/Bridgestone Arena Report

Chair Bender recognized Kyle Clayton (Vice President of Operations for the Predators) to provide updates on Bridgestone Arena. He shared that things are getting back to normal. There were about 40,000 guests/month during the period March 2020-September 2020— about 140,000 guests/month are projected for the period October 2021 – June 2022. There were 186,000 guests for the month of October 2021. *Pollstar Magazine* ranked the Predators #3 in the world for ticket sales. They also were nominated for “Arena of the Year,” David Kells was nominated for “Venue Executive of the Year,” and Sean Henry was selected for *VenuesNow’s* “All-Star Executives” who brought the live industry back.

Danny Butler (Vice President and General Manager, Ford Ice Center) provided an update on the Ford Ice Centers. With the upcoming anniversary of Title IX, there is a focus on the girls’ hockey program. A large grant supporting girls hockey in Nashville has made this possible. Since the Winter of 2020, 221 girls have been put through the program completely free, including all their equipment. Part of the grant was to host a girls’ hockey tournament which is scheduled for February 2022. This will be completely free and will include three days of hockey. The Junior Preds’ Program has hired a female coach, Mekenzie Steffen. A collegiate Women’s Hockey Program Showcase is scheduled for the last weekend in November 2021, it will include four teams (three are ranked in the top ten): Boston College, Colgate University, Mercyhurst University, and the University of Minnesota. Over 1,000 visitors are expected to attend. Last year the Junior Preds (a travel team) finished second in the nation. Upon Director Behm’s request, the updates on what is being done with the girls’ hockey program will be shared with the Ad Hoc Committee.

Rebecca King, Vice President of Community Relations for the Predators, shared that a \$115k playground has been built in East Nashville at Nashville Classical- the tenth build in ten years. Children’s Hospital was presented a \$335k check on behalf of the 365 Pediatric Cancer Fund (a fund created by Predators players Pekka Rinne and Shea Weber) for cancer research and support of families, and a cancer support game was held at the Arena which raised approximately \$70k. The Preds Foundation awarded a Super Grant in the amount of \$70,000 to the Nashville Adult Literacy Council. The Predators are also providing 150 turkey baskets to the community, 50 of those are being provided to the Metro Nashville Police Department which pre-selects the recipients. The Predators also adopted 70 children from the Bethlehem Center for the holidays and are partnering with the Metro Fire Department to pay all animal adoption fees on December 11 for animals that are currently in shelters. There will be a Toy drive in coordination with Metro Fire Department on December 4, and on Bridgestone Arena’s Plaza there is a Giving Machine where you can donate to a list of non-profits in Nashville.

Michelle Kennedy, Chief Operating Officer for the Predators, shared currently about 20 female employees who were college athletes on staff, thanks to Title IX. There were 22 events in October. She reported that the hockey team has gotten off to a good start, winning eight of the last eleven games, and that the team has hired its first women’s hockey coach, Jackie Menzel. Predators player Pekka Rinne’s jersey will be retired in February 2022. Also in February, the 2022 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series outdoor game between the Predators and

Tampa Bay Lightning will be held at Nissan Stadium. Ms. Kennedy thanked Margaret Darby for all she has done, welcomed Bob Lackey back, and wished “good luck” to the Titans and Nashville SC.

Chair Bender also welcomed Bob Lackey back. She thanked everyone for their input and thanked the Predators for hosting the meeting. She also thanked Margaret Darby who has advised the Sports Authority over the years and will be moving to Metro Council. Margaret Darby shared that she has enjoyed working with everyone and the former members, and she introduced Josh Thomas who will be taking her place

The next meeting will be January 20, 2021 and the Women’s Ad Hoc Committee will meet on January 12, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

