



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

**MEETING MINUTES - FINANCE COMMITTEE**

NISSAN STADIUM – PRESS BOX CAFETERIA | THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025 | 9:30 AM

**Attendees**

**Committee Members:** Dan Hogan (Chair), Aaron McGee (Treasurer), Don Deering, Anna Page

**Board Members:** Kim Adkins, Russ Pulley, Tiffany Degrafinreid, Emmett Wynn,

**Staff:** Monica Fawknorton (ED), Valda Barksdale, Brandon Little, Melissa Wells, Bob Lackey, Joshua Thomas (Metro Legal), Sam Keen (Metro Legal)

**Visitors:** Adolpho Birch (Titans), Kyle Clayton (Predators), Jon Cooper (Preds), Randall Coy (DLR Group), Carol Crawley (Cumming Group), Adam English (Sounds), John Gromos (TBA), Sean Henry (Preds), Heather Hill (Cumming Group), Necol Lyons (Metro OMB), Greg McClarin (Metro Finance), George Morgan (Morgan & Morgan Inc Technical Consultant Services), James Morrison (Mortenson), Shannon Myers (Titans), Doug Scopel (Sounds), Steven Seiber (Morgan & Morgan Inc Technical Consultant Services), Paul Tarrants (DLR Group)

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***Call to Order***

Chair Hogan called the Finance Committee meeting to order, welcomed all to Nissan Stadium and thanked the Titans for hosting.

***Public Comment Period Pursuant to TN Open Meetings Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-101***

There were no sign-ups for Public Comment.

***Consider Approval of January 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes***

Chair Hogan asked if there were questions or comments pertaining to the January 16, 2025 meeting minutes. There being none,

**Upon a motion made by Director Deering and seconded by Director Page, the Finance Committee unanimously approved the January 16, 2025 meeting minutes.**

***Bridgestone Arena Update: SEC Men's Basketball Tournament***

Kyle Clayton, Chief Strategy Officer, Nashville Predators/Bridgestone Arena, reported the arena hosted the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament March 12-16. Fourteen of the SEC's sixteen teams participated in the tournament following which ESPN aired its 2025 NCAA Tournament Men's Bracketology show live from the Bridgestone Arena Plaza.

Mr. Clayton additionally reminded the Authority its four-party agreement with Nashville Sports Council, Powers Management and the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporations (NCVC) to provide certain expenses related to a multi-year residency (through 2035) of the SEC Tournament, including staffing, décor, and hospitality. Powers Management covers the cost upfront and is reimbursed by the Authority in accordance with the schedule noted in Exhibit B of the 2019 Lease Agreement, also known as the "Waterfall" which also funds capital expenses for Bridgestone Arena. Should the funds fall short for capital expenses, Powers Management will bear the responsibility.

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With the SEC's additional teams (University of Texas and University of Oklahoma), the expansion of the tournament to include an additional day, and the rising costs of labor, décor, and hospitality, total hosting expenses have increased. The deficit last year was about \$175k and is anticipated to be about \$400k this year. Mr. Clayton shared that the Predators will seek approval of an increase in funding. The proposal will include projections to accommodate a 5% growth rate for the next five years with the option to review cost again in 2030 to determine if further funding adjustments are necessary. Revenue generated from ticket and sales tax will cover the increase.

Upon receipt of the proposed projections, noted Executive Director Fawknottson, the proposal will be shared with Metro Legal and Finance for their review.

***Consider Approval of a Resolution Approving the Expenditure of Funds Related to Continuing Obligations to Maintain & Comply with Storm Water Control Measures at First Horizon Park***

Executive Director Monica Fawknottson reported that in October 2022, the Sports Authority entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Metro Water Services that acknowledges Sports Authority's responsibility to maintain Storm Water Control Measures (SCMs) at two of its facilities; Nissan Stadium (Water Quality Unit & Permeable Pavers) and First Horizon Park (Water Quality Unit, Permeable Pavers, Green Roof above the Band Box Concession Stand).

Annually, Metro Stormwater assesses stormwater control measures and makes recommendations based on findings. To address the seasonal maintenance needs associated with upkeep and beautification of the rain garden (bio retention basin), staff solicited quotes in accordance with Metro's procurement process. Cumberland River Compact's (CRC) quote was the lowest cost/best value at \$3,950. CRC is a registered vendor with Metro.

This seasonal work will align with the Sounds baseball season (March - September) and a detailed schedule of the work and associated fees are as follows:

**Bio retention basin/rain garden Project Quote: Cumberland River Compact \$3,950**

- \$1100 (*Seasonal mulch / major cleanup fee*) – One-time, billed on first month of service
- \$2850 (*Weeding / removal of debris*) - \$475/month for the remaining months of the baseball season.
- In the near future, the Sports Authority will seek to secure a multi-year agreement to cover these services annually.

Chair Hogan questioned whether there is a dollar amount that staff can allocate for these services without coming to the board for approval. Executive Director Fawknottson noted that the board can authorize a specific dollar amount to cover annual upkeep and maintenance. Chair Hogan suggested that the discussion be continued at a future meeting.

Additionally, reported Ms. Fawknottson, the Sounds have submitted a project quote from Baker Roofing (also a registered vendor with Metro) to the Authority for \$950 to repair punctures and four holes in the Green Roof Membrane. These repairs are not covered by warranty.

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To ensure compliance with the MOU, staff requests board approval of a resolution authorizing funding not to exceed \$6,000.00 for both projects; maintenance of the rain garden and repairs associated with the green roof.

**Upon a motion made by Chair Deering and seconded by Director Page, the Finance Committee unanimously approved the Resolution Approving the Expenditure of Funds Related to Continuing Obligations to Maintain and Comply with Storm Water Control Measures at First Horizon Park**

***Consider Approval of Sports Authority FY26 Operating Budget and Capital Requests***

Executive Director Fawknotson directed the board's attention to the Budget Presentation Report. The current FY25 budget is \$1.789M of which 74% (\$1.329M) is allocated for insurance cost of Sports Authority facilities, 22.1% covers salaries/fringe benefits for three of Sports Authority's five staff positions and 2.9% covers internal service fees. Insurance cost of public assembly buildings tends to fluctuate and FY25 saw a decrease in insurance fees from FY24. Continuing, Mrs. Fawknotson noted that travel tuition and dues exceeded the FY25 budget to ensure the Sports Authority is represented at the upcoming 2025 CAA World Congress of Sports schedule for July here in Nashville. Director Deering noted the importance of making financial provisions to allow for staff travel and participation in sports industry awareness. Mrs. Fawknotson commented that during the next Personnel Committee meeting, staff will present a proposal to establish funding for staff to engage in professional development activities and attend sports industry related conferences.

FY25 4% Funding requests for Capital Improvement Projects at First Horizon Park that were approved by the board and mandated by Major League Baseball have been completed. For FY26, the following Capital Improvements totaling \$102,607 are being requested through 4% funding:

- First Horizon – Replacement of Dugout Flooring - \$58,000
- First Horizon – Replacement of Suite Seat Parts - \$20,500
- First Horizon – Replacement of two HVAC units serving concessions areas - \$20,807
- Roof Repairs - \$3,000

The proposed FY 26 budget, Executive Director Fawknotson noted, is status quo from FY25 except for office space rent, which has been added per Public Property's request. Rent was previously included in the Administration's budget and has now shifted to Sports Authority's budget; however, Metro Finance will continue to fund the rent payments. The FY26 amount allocated for rent is \$64,660. Director Deering requested clarification of the reasoning for the line-item shift. Greg McClarin, Metro Finance, reported that an initial lease agreement for rental property is managed by Metro's Finance Administration which helps to prevent departments from oversight of a new vendor. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> year after the lease agreement has been established, the rental fees are moved to the department. This is the first time Sports Authority has encountered rent as it was previously housed in Metro owned property.

Pay plan improvement proposals will be disclosed when the mayor submits his recommendations during the State of Metro Address on May 1. Sports Authority's two Finance positions (Finance Consultant and Finance Manager) are not supported by the Metro's General Fund; but, rather with Sports Authority

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allocations from Bridgestone Arena totaling \$206k (including benefits). Salary updates recommended in the mayor's budget for the three Sports Authority positions supported by the General Fund will be funded by the Finance Department. Salary updates for the two Finance positions will come before the board for approval and will be based on the mayor's salary recommendations; they will be funded by the Arena Revenue accounts.

Mrs. Fawknorton noted that in accordance with the Charter, the board sets the pay for the Executive Director. The Personnel Committee typically meets in May/June for the ED's annual review and subsequently will bring a salary recommendation to the full board. Chair Hogan made a formal request that the Personnel Committee meet prior to the April meeting to evaluate staff compensation.

**Upon a motion made by Director Page and seconded by Director McGee, the Finance Committee unanimously approved the Sports Authority FY26 Operating Budget and Capital Requests**

### ***Old Business***

Chair Hogan revisited previous discussions concerning security at Sports Authority facilities. He commented that the intent is to determine the best approach for the Sports Authority to investigate an independent security audit of the facilities. While Sports Authority's facility tenants have individual security requirements, it would be a good use of resources to conduct an independent audit of current security measures at each facility. Chair Hogan emphasized that the results of the audit would not be accessible to the board, but to appropriate parties only. Potential future conversations may include MNPd's existing role, evaluation of the bid process, ensuring Metro Legal's confidentiality policies and the mayor's support. Executive Director Fawknorton stated that preliminary conversations with CPS indicates that they will be helpful in determining the most efficient approach for the solicitation/bid process. Director McGee requested clarification of CPS to which Mrs. Fawknorton noted Capital Project Solutions already has a contract with Metro and has served as project managers for the Sports Authority on several projects. Director Deering requested confirmation of Director Pulley's role as Security Liaison to Facilities to which Director Pulley affirmed.

Director Pulley questioned whether the request to have a Personnel Committee (PC) prior to the April board meeting required a motion. He also inquired whether there is value in having a PC meeting prior to the Mayor's State of Address which includes Metro's Pay Plan Budget. Mrs. Fawknorton noted that the PC typically meets in May or June but that it's scheduled at the discretion of the Sports Authority Chair.

### ***Adjourn***

In closing, Chair Hogan announced that the committee recommendations for approval of the resolutions will go before the full board during its meeting immediately following. There being no further questions or business, the Finance Committee meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Valda Barksdale, Metro Nashville Sports Authority

Audio Path

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