



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 | 10:30AM
GEODIS PARK ~ WEHO CLUB

ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS: Cathy Bender (Chair), Jad Duncan (Vice President), Aaron McGee (Treasurer/Secretary), Kim Adkins, Victoria Crawford, Don Deering, Dan Hogan, Monchiere' Holmes-Jones, Anna Page, Russ Pulley, Emmett Wynn

STAFF: Monica Fawknorton (ED), Brandon Little, Melissa Wells, Joshua Thomas (Metro Legal), Sam Keen (Metro Legal)

Visitors: Carter Barnett (Member of Public), Jessica Begin (TBA), Adolpho Birch (Titans), Herbert Brown (TBA), Danny Butler (Preds), Katie Cafiero (Predators), Kyle Clayton (Predators), Carol Crawley (Cumming Group/BRG), Kellen DeCoursey, Frank DePizzo, Adam English (Sounds), Keyona Hall (Invest Smart Today), Ryan Harbour (Nashville Soccer Club), Keith Hegger (Preds), Peter Heidenreich (Hall Strategies), Sean Henry (Preds), Heather Hill (Cumming Group), Joseph Hill (OPCMIA), Meaghan LaSala (Unite Here), Necol Lyons (Metro OMB), James Morrison (Mortenson), Lindsey Paola (NSC), Reggie Polk (TBA), Justin Rankin (TC2), Robert Sampson (RSAMPSON Consulting), Natalie Tran (Unite Here), Jessica Williams (Smart Girl Developments), Andrew Yahner (Barlow Malow)

Call to Order

Chair Bender called the meeting of the Sports Authority Board of Directors to order, welcomed all to GEODIS Park and thanked NSC for hosting.

Public Comment Period Pursuant to TN Open Meetings Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-101 (Tab #1)

There were no sign-ups for Public Comment.

Consider Approval of July 17, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes and August 25, 2025 Board of Directors Special Called Meeting Minutes

Chair Bender asked if there were questions or comments pertaining to the July 17, 2025 board meeting and August 25, 2025 Special Called meeting minutes. There being none,

Upon a motion made by Director McGee and seconded by Director Deering, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the July 17, 2025 and August 25, 2025 meeting minutes.

President's Report

President Fawknorton gave an overview of today's agenda. Next, she encouraged all board members to attend the Sports Authority's first Lunch & Learn scheduled for Thursday, October 2 at The Bridge Building, from 12n-1:00p. Guest speakers will be Ben York, CEO East Bank Development Authority and Heather Hill of Cumming Group Management, Sports Authority's construction representative for the Titans' new stadium project. Continuing, President Fawknorton reported that the first of several mini audits of the new Nissan Stadium construction project is underway. The audit, conducted by Baker Tilly, focuses on fiscal management and administrative oversight. A draft report of the audit will be presented to the board within the next few months.

Finance Committee Report

Dan Hogan, Finance Committee Chair reported as follows:

- A. The Bridgestone Arena Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP) was presented by Kyle Clayton, Predators. The lease agreement requires the team to submit the CAMP annually which details the arena's needs and the current and anticipated projects. The CAMP will be presented to the board for approval most likely at the October meeting.
- B. President Fawknotsen recommended that the Finance Committee defer consideration of an assessment of capital needs at Ford Ice Centers in Antioch and Bellevue.
- C. The Finance Committee considered approval of a resolution authorizing the purchase of portable security bollard for use by the Sports Authority and Metropolitan Nashville Police Department (MNPd). Director Pulley who serves as Board Security Liaison, reported on his conversations with (MNPd) representatives. The security bollards would be prioritized for use at Sports Authority facilities with secondary use by MNPd for special events. The Finance Committee recommends deferral of the resolution for a month in order to gather additional information and establish a MOU for the dual use of the security barrier equipment.

Nissan Stadium Monthly Progress Update

Kellen DeCoursey, Titans Project Executive, shared an aerial flythrough video of the new Nissan Stadium construction site, highlighting the progress of the structural steel roof beam, the circular bowl, the field level slab, the lower bowl, exterior video board which will host movies and watch parties in the park, the outdoor terrace and the Second Street Roadway realignment. Chair Bender expressed uneasiness regarding the proximity of the two stadiums to which Mr. DeCoursey reported that the demolition contract for the current stadium (95 feet from new stadium) has been coordinated to ensure the building is mechanically demolished safely and without any impact on the new stadium.

Adolpho Birch, Chief External & League Affairs Officer, reported that the total amount paid to DBE firms is close to \$111M and the number of DBE firms has increased significantly to 96. Mr. Birch also reported that the Titans ONE Community project served as Presenting Sponsors for Tennessee State University's (TSU) John Merritt Classic. Fifteen students were awarded scholarships and were recognized on the field during a game. This is a unique relationship for a professional sports team to collaborate with an HBCU and the Titans plan to continue these efforts and enhance its relationship with TSU.

Reggie Polk, Polk & Associates Construction, Inc. reported there was one recordable safety incident in August bringing the total to 13 and the Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) to 0.97, the industry average is 1.5. There are approximately 1,600 workers on site daily with 2.5M work hours to date. Further, Mr. Polk reported TC2 Workforce Development has a total of 81 graduates with 76% employed (some on the new stadium project) or enrolled in continuing education.

Justin Rankin, a recent TC2 graduate and army veteran, shared his experiences of transitioning from the logistics industry to the TC2 HVAC program. He expressed the tremendous benefits of participating in the program and how it has given him the opportunity for a long-term career and allowed him to build relationships with fellow alumni. The quote, *influence is an ammunition that will never run out.*, has proven true as TC2 continues to impact his life as he is employed on the new stadium construction installing seating and railing.

Director Hogan asked how many TC2 graduates are working on the stadium construction project to which Mr. Birch reported 76% are employed on various projects; he will provide a more definitive number of graduates employed on the new stadium construction project. Mr. Polk commented that his firm has employed one of the graduates who is performing exceedingly well and has just recently earned a raise and will receive funding for continuing education. Director McGee requested the timeline for the next cohort to which Mr. Birch noted the current cohort began mid-September for a six-week period; all are encouraged to attend the graduation ceremony. It is a prideful moment for the graduates as well as their families.

GEODIS Park Presentation

Lindsey Paola, Chief Business Officer, announced that NSC celebrated a win in the US Open Cup semifinals earning NSCs first appearance in the finals schedule for October 2 against Austin in Texas.

Frank DePizzo, Vice-President of Facilities reported that GEODIS Park expanded inclusivity and accessibility in 2025 to ensure all fans feel welcomed at every experience including matches and concerts. The initiative focuses on three projects:

1. Non-Denominational Prayer Space – installed on the North Concourse is a dedicated prayer space that serves fans & staff by providing equitable access to cultural and religious practices.
2. Mother's Spaces – in partnership with Vanderbilt Heath, two Mamava pods were installed on the concourse providing privacy for nursing moms.
3. KultureCity Sensory Room – Donated by Moriah & Joel Smallbone with support from KultureCity provides a calming space for fans experiencing sensory sensitivities. Amenities include noise-canceling headphones, fidgets, sunglasses and ID cards.

Director Adkins inquired about the specific location of the Mamava Pods to which Mr. DePizzo reported there are two, with one each located on the North and South Concourses. President Fawknorton noted there are also Mamava Pods at First Horizon Park and Nissan Stadium. Director Pulley commented that as a father of a disabled child, he applauds NSCs efforts in addressing the needs of families.

Bridgestone Arena Transformation Overview

Kyle Clayton, Chief Strategy Officer, gave an overview of the history of Broadway and former Mayor Phil Bredesen's vision to build an arena--despite not having a tenant--that would drive tourism and businesses to a dismal downtown Nashville in the 1990's. Mr. Clayton reported that the upcoming renovation plan for Bridgestone Arena is a continuation of that drive to evolve downtown. The users of the well-constructed 30-year-old building will finance the project with an estimated cost of \$650M-\$750M--without public debt and financing. Offices of the Predators will move off site during the construction renovations and will return upon completion.

Mr. Clayton noted that the vision of the transformation is to elevate the fan experience both inside and outside the venue by making it a welcoming and vibrant hub. He shared drawings and a video of the project emphasizing that the schematic design process is in the early stages and may be tweaked considerably.

With a renewed focus on connection, accessibility and atmosphere, the Bridgestone Arena Transformation project aims to:

1. **Transform Bridgestone Arena into a vibrant central gathering place** that seamlessly connects with Broadway. The existing Spire Tower will be demolished and redesigned as a more user-friendly space. Security bollards will be installed.
2. **Create a dynamic entertainment district** where fans can enjoy exciting experiences before, during and after games or events—and on non-event days—including plaza parties. A bowling alley, hotel, rooftop bar, restaurant and condos/residential spaces are possible considerations.
3. **Update key interior spaces and fan amenities** to reflect a more modern atmosphere. Expand the footprint of the building by adding a press box, updated and additional locker rooms for the Preds, additional guest seats, amenities for CMA and a standing room only fan section. The focus is on improving comfort and convenience for staff and visitors while also allowing for additional events.
4. **Open up the arena to the community** by redesigning street-level facades on all four sides, offering views in and out and creating visual moments that invite passersby to engage with the space year-round.

Director Adkins inquired about the plan to continue operations during the renovation construction process. CEO Sean Henry noted that the arena will close once hockey season has ended. It is anticipated that the arena will lose approximately 4-8 shows per year, however most special events will be pushed into a different scheduling cycle. Director Homes-Jones inquired about whether the marquee/LED boards will be static or moving to which Mr. Henry commented it will be a combination of both static and motion.

Directory Pulley asked where the staff of 400 will be located and what is the approximate completion date. Mr. Henry responded that because there is great value in having the entire staff in the building, it is possible that the tower will be repurposed to host staff or they may be located near 6th Avenue. The core renovation of the arena is anticipated to open in 2030 with additional upgrades over the next 20 years. Director Deering questioned whether a WNBA team for Nashville is still probable to which Mr. Henry noted that visions for the arena include the ability to well accommodate a second tenant, such as the WNBA or any other expansion team. Director Adkins inquired about the number of seats planned for the bowl to which Mr. Henry noted the vision is to add between 600-800 additional seats with the majority being installed in the upper bowl. President Fawknorton noted that Metro Legal will guide the board in discussions regarding legal considerations related to material alterations to the arena.

Adjourn

Chair Bender announced that to accommodate the fall break schedules, the next meeting is scheduled for 10:30a.m. Thursday, October 23 at First Horizon Park with the Finance Committee meeting prior to at 9:30a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Valda Barksdale, Metro Nashville Sports Authority

YouTube Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNwJ_LtU5QE&t=4s