



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS | MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026 | 10:30AM | GEODIS PARK ~ GOAL POST CLUB

ATTENDEES

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

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

Visitors: Adolpho Birch (Titans), Kevin Brown (Metro Finance), Danny Butler (Preds), Kyle Clayton (Preds), Bradley Crafton (Metro Finance), Carol Crawley (BRG/Cumming), Kellen DeCoursey, Adam English (Sounds), Allie Fletch-Koehler, John Gromos (TBA), Ryan Harbour (Nashville Soccer Club), Keith Hegger (Preds), Abby Helper (Preds), Sean Henry (Preds), Heather Hill (Cumming Group), Karzan Mohamad-Ali (Cumming Group), George Morgan (Morgan & Morgan Tech), Shannon Myers (Titans), Lindsey Paola (NSC), Sneha Patel (Metro Govt), Doug Scopel (Sounds), Ben York (East Bank Development Authority)

Call to Order

Chair Bender called the meeting of the Sports Authority Board of Directors to order, welcomed all to GEODIS Park and thanked Nashville Soccer Club 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 November 20, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Chair Bender asked if there were questions or comments pertaining to the November 20, 2025, board meeting minutes. There being none,

Upon a motion made by Director Deering and seconded by Director McGee, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes

President's Report

President Fawknorton gave an overview of today's agenda and shared an update on the Meridian Security Bollards. President Fawknorton reminded the board that the bollards will be housed between First Horizon Park and Bridgestone Arena. The bollards will arrive earlier than expected and will be delivered next week to First Horizon Park; training of staff has been scheduled.

President Fawknotson acknowledged Brandon Little, Special Events Coordinator who reported on the launching of the Metro Sports Authority Industry Playbook, a pilot program between Metro Nashville Public Schools and the Authority designed to give high school students a close-up view of the business of sports and facilities. Bridgestone Arena and the Predators will host the inaugural “exposureship”- style program and will welcome students from Antioch High School on Thursday, February 26. President Fawknotson noted that the Authority regularly receives inquiries regarding internships from high school and college students interested in the business of sports. In partnering with the Academy programs at Metro High Schools, the Authority sees this as a great opportunity to expose students to the business of sports and sporting facilities.

Finance Committee Report

Consider approving a Resolution approving the FY26/27 Capital Improvement Project Plan (CIP) for First Horizon Park

Dan Hogan, Finance Committee Chair reported that the Nashville Sounds shared their 2026/2027 Capital Improvement Plan, requesting the following three projects:

1. **Replacement of the LED scoreboards and panels** – the estimated cost is \$2-\$4 million. This includes four district elements, main guitar-shaped scoreboard, LED display on the left field wall, and two LED panels on the facing of the club level (one on each side). The expected lifetime of new scoreboards is 10 years. The projected timeline for completion is by February 2027 with work beginning in October 2026. The Authority is contractually obligated to fund capital expenses necessary to keep FHP in good condition and compliant with League standards. Funding sources are at the discretion of Metro Council & Metro Finance.
2. **Replacement of concourse seat parts**—the estimated cost is \$31,549.25. This was presented to the board and approved at the November 2025 meeting to secure delivery of parts in time for the 2026 Sounds baseball season.
3. **Replacement of the ballpark electrical switchboard meter** – the estimated cost is \$6,372.00.

Staff is working with Metro Finance Deputy Director Kevin Brown and Greg McClarin who both anticipate that the next 4%/Capital funding request will be in March. Also, the Cumming Group is currently working on the condition assessment and procurement of a scoreboard for FHP, both of which have been approved by the board. Staff and Finance Committee recommend approval of the Capital Improvement Plan.

President Fawknotson reported that an evaluation committee will review vendor proposals for the FHP condition assessment on January 21 and will present a Intent to Award to the board at the February meeting. Director Deering inquired about funding mechanisms once the Intent to Award is presented to which President Fawknotson noted the Authority will continue to work with Metro Finance on the most appropriate way to fund the project.

Upon a motion made by Director Hogan and seconded by Director Deering, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve a Resolution approving the FY26/27 Capital Improvement Project Plan (CIP) for First Horizon Park

Cumming Group Report - First Horizon Park Scoreboard & Condition Assessment Update and New Nissan Stadium Project Management Report

Vice-President Heather Hill introduced Project Manager Jacob Murphy, team lead on the scoreboard vendor procurement and facility condition assessment project work at First Horizon Park, and Karzan Mohamad-Ali, Senior Project Manager overseeing the new Nissan Stadium construction for Cumming Group. Mr. Murphy reported that Venue Solutions Group (VSG) will conduct an assessment walk-through of FHP on January 29 and submit a draft report of their findings on April 30. Ms. Hill commented that it is anticipated that the walk-thru will also advise on the scoreboard condition. Mr. Murphy noted that Request for Proposals (RFPs) were distributed December 5, vendor bids for the scoreboard project are due January 16, interviews will be conducted from late January to early February with a vendor recommendation presented to the board at the February meeting. Targeted completion date for the new scoreboard is prior to first pitch in 2027.

Mr. Mohamad-Ali reported that work on the new Nissan Stadium is about 61% complete and stadium construction is tracking for completion in February 2027 with a focus on quality. Interior work on the bowl, the roof cable system, drywall, framing, electrical and mechanical are all well underway. Major exterior work is also ongoing, including the façade of the building which is approaching 70% completion. Also, the Second Street project is ongoing with drilling and installation of the storm line, storm sewer & piping installation and water line installation. Cumming Group is also monitoring monthly reports from the Titans to ensure, among other things, the goal of 25% DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) participation.

GEODIS Park Update & A Resolution Approving the Naming of Certain Areas of the Geodis Park Soccer Stadium Pursuant to the Terms of the Lease Agreement Between the Sports Authority and Walsh Management

Lindsey Paola, Chief Business Officer reported that Nashville Soccer Club (NSC)/Walsh Management is requesting the renaming of The Transcard Terrace to *The Alliant Terrace* and The Goal Post Club to *The C Spire Goal Post Club*. President Fawknorton reminded the board that pursuant to the Lease Agreement, the team must obtain the Sports Authority's prior approval for renaming of areas and the board shall not withhold approval unless the proposed name violates applicable law or would reasonably cause embarrassment to the Sports Authority. Director Hogan questioned whether there will be a future request to rename the Captain's Club to which Ms. Paola stated, yes, at some point a request will be made.

Upon a motion made by Director Deering and seconded by Director Pulley, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve a Resolution Approving the Naming of Certain Areas of Geodis Park Soccer Stadium Pursuant to the Terms of the Lease Agreement Between the Sports Authority and Walsh Management

Continuing, Ms. Paola reported on various NSC updates including but not limited to: the 2026 Nashville Soccer Club home opener is 2/21/2026 vs. NE Revolution; there will be 17 home regular season matches; the FIFA World Cup break will run June 1–July 16; NSC will compete in the 2026 CONCACAF Champions Cup First-Round against Atlético Ottawa with Leg 1 on 2/17/2026 @ Ottawa and Leg 2 on

2/24/2026 @ GEODIS Park. Also, the 2026 Leagues Cup includes 18 MLS teams & 18 LIGA MX teams and will compete August 4–September 6 with the First-Round opponent to be determined.

During 2026 GEODIS Park anticipates: hosting FIFA sanctioned soccer watch parties; will attempt a Guinness Book World Record and will host the 2026 She Believes Cup on March 1. A joint bid with Nissan Stadium has been submitted for the 2031 Women’s World Cup of which 14 cities are vying to host. Ms. Paola also referenced the Major League Soccer 2027-2028 calendar change where the season will run from February-May in 2027.

Nissan Stadium Monthly Progress Update

Adolpho Birch, Chief External & League Affairs Officer, began by directing the board’s attention to the quarterly Requisition of Capital Fund for Capital Project Expense. The reimbursement request is for three projects (Lot N Surveillance Tower, Replacement of Overhead Door and Security Camera Updates) totaling \$122,724.75.

Kellen DeCoursey, Titans Project Executive reported that the New Nissan Stadium construction project has eclipsed 4.2m labor hours. The month of January will include continued coordination of infrastructure projects with Metro and the East Bank team as well as continued work on stadium construction, the realigned Second Street and the regional East Bank Pump Station. South Second Street roadway & infrastructure improvements include installation of the 12” water line which was completed on the south side of the Korean Veterans Boulevard in December. Also, over 400 linear feet of trunk line sewer were installed. Summer 2026 is the targeted time frame for completion of the southern portion of the Second Avenue project.

Ben York, CEO, East Bank Development Authority, reported that his team is tasked with redevelopment of the existing East Bank, rezoning, traffic control and infrastructure efficiency. The Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge that provides access to downtown, the East Bank and Nissan Stadium is being considered for final vote at Metro Council. Matters of consideration include continued maintenance of access to and through the East Bank Development site and reconstructing the bridge in a timely fashion that allows for no closure. Partners of this venture include Titans, Fallon, TPAC and Metro agencies who will establish a construction contract and project design; funding sources for the project and contract parties are undecided. The matter is being brought to the Sports Authority given the bridge is a support system for Nissan Stadium and it may be on the board’s agenda in coming months.

Q&A:

Q1: Please clarify whether the intent is to extend and elevate the bridge. *Director Hogan*

A1: The Fallon Company has a concept of the Music City Mile which creates an upper and lower condition through the pedestrian structure and installing a modified pedestrian structure on the east side of the river that will also support the proposed TPAC design for egress/ingress of back-of-house operations. *Mr. York*

Q2: Is this a Fallon request? *Director Hogan*

A2: It is part of the overall public vision that the city has adopted. *Mr. York*

Q3: Is this being placed on Sports Authority’s radar because we may be asked to fund it? *Director Hogan*

A3: The Sports Authority may be asked for some participation in funding and/or contract amendments. We are currently trying to design the best way to install the infrastructure. Metro Government and the Titans want to see the project installed in a way that supports the stadium and Nashvillians. *Mr. York*

Q4: Is there a rendering of what the modifications will look like? Who owns the bridge? *Director Hogan*

A4: We're still in the very early stages; however, several months ago multiple variations were presented to the Parks Department. The city owns it. *Mr. York*

Q5: Please speak to the legislation regarding this project that is going before Metro Council on January 20; I sense this may come before our board rather quickly once approved. *President Fawcnotson*

A5: I believe it will go before Metro Council for the third and final reading for approval. The goal is to enable TPAC to begin their construction so they can secure their perimeter while also maintaining bridge access for special events and employee commuters. All with the focus of no closure. *Mr. York*

Q6: Will the Authority be responsible for full or partial funding and who will make final decision? *Director Deering*

A6: Funding is to be determined and we are looking at various options. It is uncertain who will make final decision; most likely it will be made in conjunction with the Authority, Titans and Metro Government. *Mr. York*

Q7: Is there a possibility that other East Bank community structures may come before SA in the future? Is there a visionary master plan so we are not having similar conversations every six months? *Director Holmes-Jones*

A7: Yes, there are various opportunities and various ways to manage the East Bank projects. The overall vision continues to be Imagine East Bank which will be further refined over the next several years into more buildable projects all within an efficient time frame and cost perspective. As a group effort it will entail the Authority, Metro Parks and NDOT to ensure that mobility and accessibility is available for all pedestrians. *Mr. York*

Q8: Is this project directly tied to the new stadium or would this project commence without construction of a new stadium? *Director Pulley*

A8: The project is both in support of the stadium and the neighborhood development. Yes, if a new stadium was not under construction, the bridge would still require modification. *Mr. York*

Q9: With the new stadium opening in 2027, what is the time frame to complete the bridge modifications? If completed after the opening of new stadium, will it impede the opening of the new stadium? *Director Deering*

A9: This conversation is ongoing on daily basis. We are trying to ensure that operations at the current and new Nissan Stadium will continue to be operational. While the goal is to not impede operations at the stadium nor mobility for East Nashville residents, the answer is to be determined. *Mr. York*

Q10: Will rezoning efforts for the former scrap metal site become a part of your master plan? *Director Hogan*

A10: It is within the area under the provisions of the Eastbank Development Authority. What it will look like is still to be determined and based on zoning documents and the agreement between the city. *Mr. York*

Chair Bender commented that the Authority is very interested in the role it will play in this project, particularly as it relates to funding and she noted the importance of the board receiving information in a timely manner.

Continuing, Mr. DeCoursey showed a video of the mock-up “T” for “Titans” signage which lights up at night and is black in the daylight. The signage is 15’ tall by 300’ wide; final naming rights “Nissan Stadium” signage will be installed on all four sides during spring 2026. Showing an aerial video view of the interior and exterior construction as well as the Topping Out Ceremony, Mr. DeCoursey noted the project is scheduled for completion in about a year.

Adolpho Birch, Chief External & League Affairs Officer, reported that over \$160.6m payments have been made to 129 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms out of \$931.3m total project payments. Other DBE payments include: 51 Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) firms = \$61,875,148.61; 50 Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE) firms = \$68,184,511.30 and 28 Small Business Enterprise (SBE) firms = \$ 30,570,382.04. The project has also seen an increase in Tennessee based firms.

John Gromos, Principal in Charge, Tennessee Business Alliance reported minority participation is over 60% of the workforce. There have been nearly 6,000 workers on the project who have completed over 4.2m hours averaging over 1,700 workers per day and 350k hours per month. We anticipate that August 2026 will see a peak of approximately 2,000 workers per day.

Continuing, Mr. Gromos reported there were zero new recordable incidents during November and December. TRIR (Total Recordable Incident Rate divided by total number of hours worked on project) is 0.72, which is less than both the national industry rate of 1.7 and Tennessee average 1.9. Sustainability diversion rate is favorable at 91.58% and is tracking toward achieving sustainability goals. Mr. Birch added that the on-site wellness program for workers includes stretching, blood pressure & blood sugar checks; all of which contribute to worker health and wellness.

Mr. Birch reported that the Titans One Community: Home Field Advantage Catalyst Fund (\$5 million investment), is part of the Titans’ ongoing commitment to the well-being of neighborhoods across Nashville and Middle Tennessee. The Titans have awarded more than \$800k in grants to 14 housing nonprofit organizations to support emergency shelter services, affordable housing development, rental assistance, homeowner assistance, supportive housing and community development programming.

In closing, Director Deering inquired about the process of lowering the final roof piece in place to which Mr. Gromos shared it will be a complex installation process via a Strand Jack Lifting system. He invited Director Deering to come out in May or June to witness the installation in person.

Adjourn

Chair Bender announced that today marks Director Wynn’s last meeting. He was appointed in 2012 by Mayor Karl Dean and has served as Secretary/Treasurer on the Executive Committee. Chair Bender thanked Director Wynn for his service, dedication and contributions to the board and to Metro Nashville.

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2026, at Nissan Stadium with the Finance Committee meeting prior to at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Valda Barksdale, Metro Nashville Sports Authority

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpErCq8E-K4>