



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025 | 10:30AM
GEODIS PARK ~ GOAL POST CLUB

ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS: Cathy Bender (Chair), Kim Adkins, Victoria Crawford, Don Deering, Dan Hogan, Monchiere' Holmes-Jones, Anna Page, Russ Pulley, Emmett Wynn

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

Visitors: Ashley Ayub (Barton Malow), Adolpho Birch (Titans), Danny Butler (Preds), Toby Compton (BlueBird Solutions), Carol Crawley (Cumming/BRG), David Cripe (JLL), Kellen DeCoursey, Adam English (Sounds), John Gromos (TBA), Ryan Harbour (Nashville Soccer Club), Keith Hegger (Preds), Heather Hill (Cumming Group), Commander Raymond Jones (MNPd), Kellen DeCoursey (Titans), Necol Lyons (Metro OMB), Lindsey Paola (NSC), Darren Powell, Academy Director, Seth Pilkington (Metro Finance), Johny Rocci (JLL), Doug Scopel (Sounds), Bill Wickett (Preds), Andrew Yahner (Barton Malow)

Call to Order

Chair Bender called the meeting of the Sports Authority Board of Directors to order, welcomed all to First 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 October 23, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Chair Bender asked if there were questions or comments pertaining to the October 23, 2025, board meeting minutes. There being none,

Upon a motion made by Director Deering and seconded by Director Pulley, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the October 23, 2025, meeting minutes

President's Report

President Fawknorton gave an overview of today's agenda and congratulated Nashville Soccer Club on winning the 109th edition of the Lamar Hunt US Open Cup and for a club record of 22 victories in a single season plus the longest unbeaten streak across all soccer club competitions. Also, President Fawknorton encouraged the board to tour the impressive progress of the Titans new stadium—no need to wait for a schedule tour, simply contact staff for arrangements.

President Fawknorton shared that the Sports Authority Charter commemorated its 30th anniversary on October 9, 2025. In honor of this milestone, a video composed by Sports Authority Special Events Coordinator Brandon Little was shown. The video included a photo compilation of Sports Authority activities and special events over the years, former Executive Directors and previous board chairs. President Fawknorton recognized former Executive Director Toby Compton and thanked him for his service to the Sports Authority.

Finance Committee Report

Dan Hogan, Finance Committee Chair reported as follows:

- A. *Consider approval of a request from MFP Baseball, Inc. to advance a capital project related to seating at First Horizon Park* - The Sounds requested approval of a seating project totaling \$31,549.25 for seating components repairs/improvements at First Horizon Park on the concourse and club levels. Today's approval will allow Sounds to place the order in ample time to guarantee the work will be completed by Opening Day in 2026. The Sounds will include the request in their Capital Improvement Plan which they will submit to the board in January. The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Upon a motion made by Director Hogan and seconded by Director Adkins, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve the request from MFP Baseball, Inc. to advance a capital project related to seating at First Horizon Park

- B. *Consider approval of a Resolution authorizing the purchase of portable security bollards for the benefit of the Sports Authority and the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department (MNPd) and the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sports Authority and the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department concerning the use of the security bollards* – Approval was deferred during the last meeting in order to gather additional information related to storage and deployment. The bollards will be stored at First Horizon Park during the spring/summer and at Bridgestone Arena in fall/winter. Also, Convention Center Authority President/CEO Charles Starks has offered use of storage for the trailers in one of their parking lots when alternate storage is needed. The bollards will be prioritized for Sports Authority venues but may also be deployed by MNPd for special events when not in use. Meridian is the recommended vendor and the quote provided is \$360,375.54 which includes a training fee of approximately \$4,000 that will be waived when order is placed. The Sports Authority revenue sources have sufficient funds to purchase the bollards, and the Finance Committee recommends approval.

Upon a motion made by Director Hogan and seconded by Director Pulley, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve the Resolution authorizing the purchase of portable security bollards for the benefit of the Sports Authority and the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department and the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sports Authority and the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department concerning the use of the security bollards

- C. *Consider approval of a Resolution authorizing the engagement of Cumming Group to assist the Sports Authority in procuring a qualified firm to repair & replace the scoreboard and digital signage for First Horizon Park and to provide related project management services.* - The scoreboard has experienced multiple failures and parts can no longer be sourced. The target date for completion is Opening Day 2027. Cumming Group's quote for procurement and project management is a not-to-exceed of \$75,500.

Sports Authority revenue sources have sufficient funds and Finance Committee recommends approval.

Upon a motion made by Director Hogan and seconded by Director Deering, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve the Resolution authorizing the engagement of Cumming Group to assist the Sports Authority in procuring a qualified firm to repair & replace the scoreboard and digital signage for First Horizon Park and to provide related project management services

- D. First Horizon Park Condition Assessment - Cumming Group's Heather Hill provided an update and timeline on the procurement of a consultant to perform a condition assessment at First Horizon Park. A copy of the timeline is included in board binders.

Chair Bender praised the Finance Committee for their efforts and great work. **She also appointed Director Russ Pulley to serve on the committee to which he accepted.**

GEODIS Park Host Facility Report

Lindsey Paola, Chief Business Officer reported that NSCs win of the Lamar Hunt US Open Cup qualifies the team to compete for the 2026 Concacaf Champions Cup. She also reported on a Major League Soccer change for the 2026 season which includes a Sprint Season and the 2027 season running from July to May 2028 to align with the European Calendar Season.

Darren Powell, Academy Director (formerly with Inter Miami, Orlando City and San Antonio FC) gave an extensive report on the NSC Academy and Player Pipeline. With a full-time staff of approximately sixteen and eight part-time/college interns, the goal of the Academy is to produce homegrown players that will become valuable assets for Major League Soccer (MLS) teams. Players are identified via Tennessee scouts and a local network of players; additionally, aftermarket players are scouted from California and Florida. Typically, one or two players from the program will progress to an MLS team. There are currently about 80 players in the program. Its six key principles are: Competitive, United, Thoughtful, Resourceful, Resilient and Sustainable.

The Academy is funded by NSC and is comprised of 6 progressive levels: Discovery Phase (age 13 & under), Learn to Train (age 14), Learn to Compete (ages 15 & 16), Learn Pro Player Habits (age 18), Live Pro Player Habits (Huntsville SC 2nd Team) and Make IMPACT (NSC Team). A high-performance environment, the Academy has year-round programming (August-June), including annual player evaluations, overseas trips, a host family system for out-of-town players and academic support with teachers on site as well as an educational collaboration with the Predators TPH Program.

Nissan Stadium Monthly Progress Update

Adolpho Birch, Chief External & League Affairs Officer, began by paying tribute to veterans as well as active military, in honor of Veteran's Day. Mr. Birch reported that the Titans will host a Steel Topping Out Ceremony and construction progress of the new stadium tomorrow, November 21. He also reported over \$152M has been paid to 121 DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) firms.

Kellen DeCoursey, Titans Project Executive, added that the Topping Out Ceremony will celebrate the progress of securing the top of the steel structure. The project is on schedule, on budget and is moving towards enclosure with curtain wall glazing and elevator installations underway. The ETFE roof system

will be the 2nd of its kind that is fully enclosed. The final piece of the compression ring has been placed and entailed over 200 iron workers with about 60 of them focused on the ring itself. Over 3.5 million labor hours have been worked on the project, and the focus will now shift to the enclosure of the building. This quality driven focus includes water infiltration testing on windows, installation of six cooling tower cells and vertical transportation (37 elevators), plus the South 2nd Street parkway are all underway. Director Deering inquired about the number of days construction has been underway to which Mr. DeCoursey noted it has been approximately 19 months of construction.

John Gromos, Principal in Charge, Tennessee Business Alliance reported there have been over 5,000 workers on the project who have completed over 3.4M hours averaging over 1,700 workers per day. With the steel topping out, the steel workforce will decline and will shift to an increase in drywall painters and other interior trade workers.

Continuing, Mr. Gromos reported there was one incident recorded during the month of October involving a magnetic drill that was dropped and injured a worker's hand. October's TRIR (Total Recordable Incident Rate divided by total number of hours worked on project) is 0.87, which is less than half the industry and Tennessee average. The focus continues to be on areas of improvement, training and identifying trends to aid in preventing recordables.

Mr. Birch reported that the TC2 workforce training program graduated 15 participants in its 8th cohort, all of whom received job offers. Cohort #9 will begin in January 2026 for the six-week program.

Adjourn

Chair Bender announced the next board meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2026, with the Finance Committee meeting prior to at 9:30a.m. Location is to be announced soon.

Respectfully submitted, Valda Barksdale, Metro Nashville Sports Authority

YouTube Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0N_ol1-ppDo