



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS | MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026 | 10:30AM | FORD ICE CENTER ~ DRAFT PICKS

ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS: Jad Duncan (Vice-Chair), Aaron McGee (Treasurer/Secretary), Victoria Crawford, Tiffany Degrafinreid, Jon Glassmeyer, Dan Hogan, Monchiere' Holmes-Jones, Ann Page, Kendell Poole, Russ Pulley, Adam Sansiveri, Victor Wynn

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

VISITORS: Visitors at don't go Birch, Jennifer Boniecki (Preds), Danny Butler (Preds), Bradley Crafton (Metro Finance), Carol Crawley (BRG/Cumming), Haley Davidson (Titans), Kellen DeCoursey (Titans), Adam English (Sounds), Michael Gallagher (TBA), Luke Goodman, Ryan Hampton (MNP), Ryan Harbour (Nashville Soccer Club), Keith Hegger (Preds), Heather Hill (Cumming Group), David Kells (Preds), Greg McClarin (Metro Finance), Jacob Murphy (Cumming Group), Lindsey Paola (Nashville Soccer Club), J Rocco (JLL), Robert Sampson (Rsampson Consulting), Doug Scopel (Sounds), Lauren Shields (Spelman Student), David Urso (Preds), Bill Wickett (Preds), Dan Williams (Preds)

Call to call to order

Chair Hogan called the meeting of the Sports Authority Board of Directors to order, welcomed all to Ford Ice Center Bellevue, and thanked the Preds for hosting. Chair Hogan announced Russ Pulley as the new Finance Committee Chair, noting that Jon Glassmeyer and Victor Wynn have been appointed to the Committee. Additionally, Monchiere' Holmes Jones has agreed to serve as board liaison to Nissan Stadium. Two appointments are still available are liaisons for GEODIS Park and First Horizon Park. Later in the meeting Chair Hogan recognized that Director Poole has agreed to serve on the Personnel Committee.

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 April 16, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Upon a motion made by Director Pulley and seconded by Director McGee, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes.

President's Report

President Fawknorton introduced Lauren Shields, a graduate of Independence High School who recently completed her freshman year at Spelman College and has expressed an interest in the sports profession. She volunteered at both the SEC Men's basketball tournament in Nashville and the SEC Football Championship in Atlanta and was invited by President Fawknorton to attend today's meeting.

President Fawknorton reported that in consultation with Metro legal, staff have been working with a couple of seating companies on the salvage and sale of 5,000 to 15,000 seats in the existing stadium prior to demolition. She stated her hope that a contract will be signed soon. Continuing, Madam President reported that the

Personnel Committee will meet June 8 for the president's annual review. The Executive Committee will likely meet before. More information will be shared soon.

Fawknorton recognized Brandon Little, Special Events Coordinator, to give an update on the Sports Authority Industry Playbook program held at GEODIS Park. Mr. Little reported that on April 23 Nashville Soccer Club hosted a bilingual (English/Spanish) tour for senior students from Glen Cliff High School Academy of Agriculture, Construction, Maintenance, Engineering and Environmental Biotechnology in conjunction with Metro Nashville Public Schools. The Sports Authority Industry Playbook program seeks to create and expand opportunities for high school students who've expressed interest in the business of sports and entertainment. The visit for this group of 14 students focused on sporting turf grass management as well as an overview of soccer operations. Vice-Chair Duncan inquired whether the program will be expanded to counties outside of Davidson to which President Fawknorton noted that there is opportunity for discussions on which direction this pilot program will unfold. She additionally expressed her appreciation for the ways the venues open their doors to the community, noting that the Urban Land Institute visited several of our facilities including a tour of GEODIS Park during their national spring meeting.

Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Pulley noted that April 16, 2026 meeting minutes were approved and reported as follows:

- a. Consider a Resolution authorizing an increase in funding for Cumming Management Group, Inc to pay for the completed comprehensive condition assessment of First Horizon Park - Back in October the board approved up to \$35,000 in funding to engage Cumming Group to help the Authority solicit a firm to conduct the assessment. Venue Solutions Group (VSG) was selected to conduct the study. The resolution increases the authorized funding from \$35,000 to \$145,000 to cover the cost of the assessment. The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Upon a motion made by Director Pulley and seconded by Director McGee, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a Resolution authorizing an increase in funding for Cumming Management Group, Inc to pay for the completed comprehensive condition assessment of First Horizon Park

- b. Consider a Resolution approving a contract with Uber Displays, LLC, for the repair and replacement of scoreboard and digital signage at First Horizon Park – The board previously approved funding (\$75,000) to engage Cumming Group to help find a qualified vendor to replace the scoreboard and signage. Uber Displays was selected as the top vendor following a solicitation and evaluation of proposals. Metro Legal, staff, Cumming Group and Uber Display (a local company) have worked to bring a draft contract to the board. The Authority's attorney, Josh Thomas, walked the committee through the highlights of the contract. The Finance Committee recommends approval. *Vice Chair Duncan abstained from the vote having a conflict of interest.*

Upon a motion made by Director Pulley and seconded by Director Crawford, the Board of Directors approved a Resolution approving a contract with Uber Displays, LLC, for the repair and replacement of scoreboard and digital signage at First Horizon Park

- c. Consider a Resolution amending the agreement between the Sports Authority and Cumming Management Group to expand scope and increase the contract value for construction representative services for the

new, enclosed NFL stadium - This resolution will expand the scope of the Authority's current agreement with Cumming Group to include financial oversight related to the Siegenthaler Bridge Connector and provide additional funds for DBE oversight and financial accounting related to stadium construction. The total contract value will increase by \$648,095 to \$4,848,095. The additional funds will come from the Stadium Construction Budget and the Eligible Projects Fund. The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Upon a motion made by Director Pulley and seconded by Director Duncan, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a Resolution amending the agreement between the Sports Authority and Cumming Management Group to expand scope and increase the contract value for construction representative services for the new, enclosed NFL stadium

- d. Metro FY27 Budget Update - President Fawcnotson provided an update on the FY27 Budget. The Mayor's budget includes a proposed 1.7% increase across-the-board salary increase for all employees, as well as a 2% merit increase. It also includes a request that each department provide a 1.5% reduction in their operating budgets. The Mayor's recommended budget is currently under review by Metro Council. The Council must pass a substitute budget by June 30.

Ford Ice Center Bellevue Host Facility Report -

David Kells, Chief Venues Officer reported that Bridgestone Arena hosted its first Southeast Asian headliner Diljit Dosanjh, a Punjab Indian which was a great benchmark for Nashville where over 6,000 tickets were sold for Wednesday night performance. It opened the door to patrons who may have never visited Bridgestone Arena.

Jennifer Boniecki, Director, Amateur Hockey & Fan Development reported on various Amateur Hockey Highlights for 2025-26 including, but not limited to:

- 360 players were introduced to the sport of hockey through the Little Preds Learn to Play and Creating Opportunities for Racial Equality (CORE) programs
- 400 participants play in the Preds Youth Hockey League at Ford Ice Centers (FIC) in Antioch & Bellevue
- Over 1,500 adult players on 118 teams are in Adult Hockey Leagues at FIC in Antioch & Bellevue
- Due to adult interest, two Adult Learn to Play sessions were hosted this summer introducing 80 new players
- The Industry Growth Fund (IGF) was created 13 years ago by the NHL and the NHL Players Association (NHLPA) to help grow the game of hockey. Every two years, NHL clubs are able to apply to receive a grant which supports the creation of new programs. Over \$630k has been awarded for the next two years for the following programs:
 - Unification of Mid-TN Ice Sports: creates tournaments for youth and adult players of the FICs and Centennial Sportsplex to create a unified community and purchase new equipment.
 - College Ambassador Program: sends ambassadors directly to local college campuses to connect with students and staff educating them on the Preds, Smashville Ice Rinks and Bridgestone Arena. Offerings include discounted tickets, student seminars and college internship information.
 - Synthetic Rink at Ford Ice Center Antioch: revitalizing an underutilized asset in the street hockey rink and converting it into a synthetic rink where players are able to work on individual skills year-round at lower cost and with more availability.

Director Adkins inquired about whether the synthetic ice will replace the existing ice and she inquired about curling. Ms. Boniecki noted the synthetic will not be a replacement; it will be placed in a small training area for one-on-one lessons. This helps to eliminate the on-ice congestion. FIC Antioch has Curling Stones, however they are not as popular as previously. Director McGee inquired about when the college ambassador program will go live to which Ms. Boniecki noted it is anticipated that the application process will launch in the fall.

Dan Williams, Director of Business Operations reported on various FIC operations including, but not limited to:

- FIC-A and FIC-B are two high-performing facilities with strong ice utilization and high demand year-round. FIC-A has a higher volume for individual ice sessions and community access while FIC-B sees strong premium rentals and tournament activity. The centers continue to see growth for hockey & ice skating in Middle Tennessee. Total ice usage for the past 12 months: FIC Antioch = 12,485 hours (55%); FIC Bellevue = 10,215 hours (45%). Overall combined attendees total over 25k.
- Over 80 special events and tournaments including Texas Roadhouse Meat Cutting Competition (FIC-A), which Mr. Williams will share photos and videos; *9-1-1: Nashville* Film Shoot (episode 10) at FIC-B and entertainer Jelly Roll's promotional *Rise Up* video for the Stanley Cup Playoffs filmed at FIC-A.

Director Poole questioned whether there is a demand to support another facility to which Mr. Williams indicated that the demand is certainly there; adult events sometimes run past midnight with youth activities ending by 10:00pm. Danny Butler, Senior Vice President noted that hockey registrations continue to grow at about 30% per year. Majority of participants come from outside of Davidson County. Rates are kept within the industry average despite rising cost of operations to ensure accessibility to all. Per request by Director McGee, a list of participants county origin per center will be provided.

Titans DBE Update and Stadium Monthly Progress Report

Adolpho Birch, Chief External & League Affairs Officer reported that Nissan Stadium will host Super Bowl 64 in 2030. It is anticipated that the event will be a bar setter similar to the 2019 NFL Draft held in Music City Nashville and will have a long term positive economic impact on the city. Chair Hogan congratulated the Titans on securing such an enormous deal for the city and inquired about the magnitude of its impact on the city. Having attended 28 Super Bowls, Mr. Birch shared the promotional video and noted it is inequivalent to any other event in terms of magnitude. Director Crawford (Fisk Women's basketball coach) shared that the announcement has been far reaching including the prompting of calls to her office from out of state players wanting to come to Nashville to join her team.

Kellen DeCoursey, Titans Project Executive, shared aerial views of the construction site and reported that the Nissan Stadium construction project is nine months away from completion. Cable net system has been raised, the 224 post for the roof system should be completed in June and enclosure of the roof is anticipated to begin in September. The new stadium will house a video board approximately 75 feet wide by 50 feet tall, 70k square footage of outdoor terrace space and a room to house team family members. Construction of the Seigenthaler Bridge Connector, a collaboration between Metro, Eastbank Development, NDOT and Metro Parks is underway and a construction manager should be selected in June.

Mr. Birch reported on Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Firm Payments as follows: 70 Women-Owned Business Enterprise firms were paid \$99.2M; 58 Minority Owned Business Enterprise firms were paid \$117.4M; 33 Small Business Enterprise firms were paid \$32.8M. Total DBE payments are \$249.5M out of total project payments of \$1.17B. The overall goal is for 25% of project cost to be paid to DBEs.

Mike Gallagher, TBA Project Executive reported that the project is averaging around 2,100 workers per day with over 5.8 million labor hours to date. There were four new recordable safety incidents in April; two strains, one quad injury and one laceration requiring stitches. All workers returned to work with only one incurring lost time. The current TRIR (Total Recordable Incident Rate) is 0.75 slightly up from last report; the goal is 0.5 which is best in class. National industry rate average is 1.6-1.7 and in Tennessee it is 1.9.

Director Pulley requested an update from MNPd on the Meridian Security Vehicle Barriers. Lt. Ryan Hampton, Special Events, MNPd reported that MNPd is heavily involved in operations regarding traffic security and safety specifically regarding vehicle intrusion. In addition to setting up MNPd's barrier systems for special events throughout the city, MNPd has also assisted First Horizon Park and GEODIS Park with deploying the Authority's barriers at their facilities. Additionally, in utilizing the Sports Authority's new Scheduling Tool, MNPd has successfully scheduled the Authority's barriers for additional security during the CMA Fest. As the footprint of special events continue to increase here in Nashville, MNPd will continue to utilize the Authority's barriers to supplement its security posture. While it is anticipated that Major League Soccer's new schedule will prompt game day and special event overlaps with other leagues/facilities, with additional barriers, both MNPd and Nashville are more than competent and capable of managing the footprint increase.

Director McGee suggested further discussion at the August meeting regarding how the Mayor's budget will address and support additional expenses resulting from the increase in special events coming to the city and its implications for the Sports Authority. President Fawknorton commented that there is wisdom and diligence in addressing this matter ahead of the anticipated increase of events coming to the city.

Director McGee congratulated Chair Hogan on an excellent job of chairing his first meeting.

Adjourn

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 18 at Bridgestone Arena; the Finance Committee will meet prior to.

Respectfully submitted, Valda Barksdale, Metro Nashville Sports Authority

YouTube Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2AoFsbSn-s>