



MINNESOTA SPORTS FACILITIES AUTHORITY MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, November 18, 2021, 8:00 A.M.

Mill City Museum

710 South Second Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – September 23, 2021
3. BUSINESS
  - a. Reports
    - i. Minnesota Vikings Updates
      - Lester Bagley, MN Vikings
    - ii. Executive Director Report
      - Envision Community Collaboration
        - Dr. William Walsh, University of MN (via video)
        - Freddy Toran, Envision Community
        - Sherry Shannon, Envision Community (via video)
    - iii. MSFA Comprehensive 2020-2021 Financial Report
    - iv. U.S. Bank Stadium Updates
      - John Drum, ASM Global
      - Jenifer Freeman, Aramark
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
5. DISCUSSION
6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING – December 16, 2021 in Medtronic Club
7. ADJOURNMENT



**MINNESOTA  
SPORTS FACILITIES  
AUTHORITY**

**MINNESOTA SPORTS FACILITIES AUTHORITY  
Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2021 at 8:00 A.M.  
U.S. Bank Stadium - Medtronic Club**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Vekich called the meeting of the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (“MSFA” or “Authority”) to order at 8:00 A.M.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present: Chair Michael Vekich, Sharon Sayles Belton, Angela Burns Finney, and Bill McCarthy.

Commissioners absent: Tony Sertich

3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – August 19, 2021.** *See, Exhibit A.*

4. **PRE-MEETING BUSINESS**

Chair Vekich announced that Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey has appointed a new board member to replace Dr. Barbara Butts Williams, whose term ended in August 2021. He stated that Commissioner Butts Williams joined the newly created MSFA board in June 2012, bringing a wealth of public and private sector experience to the role. Over the years, Commissioner Butts Williams has shared her passion for education, community relations, and the promotion of diversity and inclusion efforts. Chair Vekich and the board then recognized Commissioner Butts Williams for her service and dedication to the board over the last nine years.

Chair Vekich welcomed Commissioner Sharon Sayles Belton as the newest Commissioner to the MSFA. He noted that Commissioner Sayles Belton has a deep history of public service to the City of Minneapolis, including two terms as the Mayor of Minneapolis from 1994-2001. He noted that she also has a wide array of experience in the private sector with large, complex global organizations, and stated that the MSFA is excited to welcome her to the organization.

5. **BUSINESS**

a. Action Items

**i. Approve Digital Video Recording Upgrade Project**

James Farstad, Executive Director at the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority, stated that on August 2, 2021, the Authority published a Request for Proposal for the Digital Video Recording Upgrade Project. Due to evolving technology, U.S. Bank Stadium's current system is no longer able to receive any security updates and patches, and needs to be replaced. This technology will also be implemented in the Authority owned parking ramps, allowing all of the security cameras to run on the same platform, which will make for easier checking of video, retrieving of video, and administration of the overall system. The Authority received just one proposal from Gephart Electric Company, Inc., in the amount of \$284,880.00. See, Exhibit B.

Commissioner Sayles Belton inquired as to why only one proposal was received and questioned if this line of work is a niche, or if many companies could provide this service. Mr. Farstad stated that he was surprised the MSFA only received one proposal, as other companies are able to perform the work.

Commissioner McCarthy asked Mr. Farstad if this project falls under the ongoing Project Labor Agreement, and Mr. Farstad confirmed that it does.

Commissioner Sayles Belton moved and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion to approve the following recommended motion, which was unanimously adopted:

*The Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority authorizes the Chair and Executive Director to enter into a contract with Gephart Electric Company, Inc. in the amount of \$284,880.00.*

**ii. Approve 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Facility Service Fee**

Mr. Farstad stated that the Authority wishes to amend the Management and Pre-Opening Services Agreement with ASM Global to increase the facility service fee, which is charged to a ticket buyer for certain events held at U.S. Bank Stadium, as well as all sports and entertainment venues across the Twin Cities, and the nation. The current facility Fee is \$3.50 per ticket for Authority (non-Minnesota Vikings) events, and ASM Global is requesting this amount be increased to \$5.00 per ticket. See, Exhibit C.

Commissioner Sayles Belton asked John Drum, General Manager of ASM, what precautions U.S. Bank Stadium is taking to protect its guests from COVID-19. Mr. Drum stated that the cleaning standards within the venue have tremendously increased, and that the bowl and offices are sanitized more frequently. He also noted that staff must wear masks at all times during events, and hand sanitizing stations have been installed in many locations throughout the stadium. Lastly, he stated that stadium officials are continuing to monitor and follow the guidelines of the CDC and the State of Minnesota regarding the COVID-19 protocols.

Commissioner Finney moved and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion to approve the following recommended motion, which was unanimously adopted:

*The MSFA authorizes the Chair and Executive Director to execute the Fifth Amendment to the Management and Pre-Opening Services Agreement with ASM Global.*

**iii. Approve Refrigeration System Repairs**

Mr. Farstad stated that the Authority signed a contract with Metropolitan Mechanical Contractors (MMC) on August 3, 2021 in the amount of \$207,905.00 for repairs to the concession rack refrigeration system at U.S. Bank Stadium. The repairs included the installation and replacement of the compressor and other materials and items in the rack system. However, on August 18, 2021, it was discovered that

additional repairs were needed, including the furnishing and installation of a condenser/heat exchanger to replace the existing unit. See, Exhibit D.

Mr. Farstad then thanked Ed Kroics, Facilities Operations Manager at ASM, for all his hard work in managing this big project.

Commissioner Sayles Belton asked Mr. Farstad if the MSFA has a capital improvement plan, and Mr. Farstad stated that the MSFA is currently working on a 10 and 30-year plan.

Commissioner Sayles Belton moved and Commissioner Finney seconded the motion to approve the following recommended motion, which was unanimously adopted:

*The Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority authorizes the Chair and Executive Director to enter into a second contract revision with Metropolitan Mechanical Contractors for \$21,828.00 for a total contract amount of \$253,813.00.*

## **b. Report Items**

### **i. Stadium Updates**

John Drum, General Manager of U.S. Bank Stadium, provided the MSFA board with a stadium update. He stated that U.S. Bank Stadium recently hosted the Indianapolis Colts, and that there was a lot of energy within the building! Mr. Drum also stated that in addition to NFL games, the stadium has hosted many youth sports events, and that many kids traveling from all around the state to play at U.S. Bank Stadium. He noted that stadium officials are currently staying up to date on the guidelines of CDC, and stated that they are highly recommending all staff get vaccinated. Although vaccinations are not a mandate, all staff are required to wear masks at all times while inside the building on event days.

Mr. Drum stated that ASM, Aramark, and our security partners hosted a job fair on September 8, 2021 at the stadium, as well as one at North Central University. He noted that the stadium partners are

always looking for great people to work events, and that individuals are welcomed to apply for any open positions at [www.usbankstadium.com](http://www.usbankstadium.com). Lastly, Mr. Drum stated that Rolling Stones and George Strait tickets are on sale, and that the concerts will be held on October 24th and November 13th.

Commissioner Sayles Belton asked Mr. Drum if there are any issues on staffing due to COVID-19, and Mr. Drum stated that ASM was able to retain a large majority of their staff since the pre-COVID event in 2019, but that stadium partners are always looking for more talent. Mr. Drum noted that it has been more of a challenge recruiting individuals to work, but stated that all the stadium partners are vigorously recruiting, and have been successful in obtaining new hires.

## **ii. Minnesota Vikings Updates**

Lester Bagley, Executive Vice President of Public Affairs, provided the board with a Minnesota Vikings update. Mr. Bagley stated that the Vikings are treating their first regular home season game as an official grand re-opening of U.S. Bank Stadium. He noted that the Vikings have played two exciting road games this season, and that he is looking forward to bringing the team home. Mr. Bagley announced that the Vikings will be hosting a pre-kickoff event in the commons park outside U.S. Bank Stadium, which will feature a concert headlined by Dustin Lynch. He encouraged fans to be in their seats at 3:00 pm, as there will be a new special pregame show, including a performance from the Minnesota Viking's newest partner, the Minnesota Orchestra. Lastly, Mr. Bagley thanked the MSFA, ASM, and Aramark for a wonderful partnership, and stated that he is looking forward to another exciting Minnesota Vikings season.

## **iii. Executive Director Report**

Mr. Farstad stated that the Hennepin County Medical Center EMS team came to U.S. Bank Stadium on September 21, 2021, to train stadium staff on the topics of CPR, AEDs, and Stop the Bleed. The staff was very impressed by the training program, and the stadium partners feel prepared and ready to help any guests who may need temporary medical assistance before an EMS is able to assist.

Mr. Farstad stated that the MSFA, in conjunction with the Minnesota Vikings, ASM Global, & Aramark, hosted a grill-out on Monday, September 13, 2021 for all stadium staff in Mystic Lake's Club Purple. He

thanked John Drum, Andrew Miller, COO of the Minnesota Vikings, and Jenifer Freeman, General Manager of Aramark, for serving as the chefs for the event.

Lastly, Mr. Farstad stated that U.S. Bank Stadium and the Minnesota Vikings IT and Broadcast teams hosted a half day hybrid in-person and WebEx meeting with Cisco to explore future Smart Venue technology trends. The MSFA, along with Target Field, Target Center, Xcel Energy Center, Mall of America, Mayo Clinic, MIA, and Mystic Lake Casino all participated in the meeting.

Commissioner Sayles Belton asked Mr. Farstad what “smart venue technology” is, and Mr. Farstad stated that it is technology that is created to help enhance a guest’s user experience with their technology devices at U.S. Bank Stadium better.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Ann Laughlin: Ms. Laughlin stated that in 2017, the MSFA and the Minnesota Vikings engaged in a bird mortality study conducted by Dr. Scott Loss, and that the study produced similar results to the Minneapolis Audubon’s study as far as bird deaths. Ms. Laughlin noted that the stadium is among one of the top bird-fatality buildings in downtown Minneapolis, and stated that it has a higher collision rate than many high-rise buildings in the United States. She noted that the MSFA board received that report, which presented several effective retrofit options, in November 2019. Ms. Laughlin stated that the Dr. Loss bird mortality study, commissioned by the MSFA, strongly recommended retrofitting the stadium glass and provided effective products that are readily available. Ms. Laughlin is requesting, now that the stadium is resuming operations after the COVID-19 pandemic, that the MSFA retrofit the glass before another migration season passes.
2. Constance Peppin: Ms. Peppin stated that based on the understated numbers of bird collisions and deaths in Dr. Scott Loss’ 2019 study, the stadium is in the group of buildings that represent the upper extreme of bird collision rates in the country. She noted that the Loss study states that “While bird-building collisions are the leading cause of collision mortality, they are largely preventable”, and stressed that any factors beyond the control of government or public agencies

are contributing to dramatic declines in bird populations. Ms. Peppin also referenced an excerpt from Dr. Loss' report stating: "Notably, our results for U.S. Bank Stadium suggest that a major reduction in collisions can be achieved by focusing mitigation on one or more particularly problematic spans of glass." Ms. Peppin stated that at the stadium, the MSFA has the opportunity to drastically reduce bird deaths simply by retrofitting the glass, and that the project to help protect the birds is long overdue.

3. Stephen Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield stated that recent monitoring found numerous corpses during this migration season, and that these fatal collisions with glass could have been prevented. Mr. Greenfield noted that simple retrofit treatments, such as those described in Audubon Minnesota's report by Dr. Loss, have been proven to be effective. Mr. Greenfield stated that retrofitting the stadium glass, as many new buildings in the Twin Cities are now implementing, would drastically reduce bird fatalities, and the stadium would still be able to retain its architectural integrity. He noted that based on his experience at other sites, he believes that most visitors to the stadium would not even notice the change. Lastly, Mr. Greenfield asked the MSFA board to make changes to the stadium as soon as possible, and asked that the board continue to make the bird fatality issue a priority.

## 7. DISCUSSION

Due to the departure of Commissioner Butts Williams, the MSFA board needed to reelect a Vice-Chair. Commissioner Sertich also requested that his role as Secretary/Treasurer be transferred to another Commissioner. Therefore, Chair Vekich asked the board if they had any nominations for the Vice-Chair and the Secretary/Treasurer positions. All the Commissioners unanimously agreed that Commissioner McCarthy will serve as the Vice-Chair, and that Commissioner Finney will serve as the Secretary/Treasurer. Chair Vekich announced that these changes would go into effect in 10 business days.

## 8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Chair Vekich announced that the next MSFA meeting will be held on Thursday October 21, 2021, at Mill City Museum at 8:00 A.M.



9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the MSFA, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 A.M.

*Approved and adopted the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021, by the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority.*

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Angela Burns Finney, Secretary/Treasurer

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James Farstad, Executive Director



DATE: November 18, 2021  
TO: MSFA Commissioners  
FROM: Mary Fox-Stroman, Director of Finance  
SUBJECT: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

We are pleased to present to you our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (Annual Report) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The Annual Report has three major sections: introductory, financial, and statistical. The financial section includes the independent auditors' report, management's discussion and analysis, the basic financial statements, and the required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include the statement of net position, statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position, statement of cash flows, and notes to the financial statements. The Authority's financial statements include ASM Global's fifth year of operations of U.S. Bank Stadium.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA) performed the audit and issued an unmodified audit opinion that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Authority as of June 30, 2021, and the changes in financial position and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. CLA also issued a separate audit report titled: *Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and On Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards*, and they issued a governance letter. The additional report and the letter will be presented by CLA.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Authority for its Annual Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This was the eighth award that the Authority has received. We believe this Annual Report meets the certificate program requirements and we submitted it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility. The award is typically received six months after submission of the financial report.

**Recommended Motion: None.**

