



MINNESOTA SPORTS FACILITIES AUTHORITY  
Meeting Minutes – September 30, 2019 at 9:00 A.M.  
U.S. Bank Stadium – Medtronic Club  
401 Chicago Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vekich called the meeting of the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (“MSFA” or “Authority”) to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Chair Michael Vekich, Bill McCarthy, Barbara Butts Williams, Tony Sertich, and Angela Burns Finney.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – August 16, 2019. See, Exhibit A.

4. BUSINESS

Before the action items, Chair Vekich announced that the MSFA board has a new member, Angela Burns Finney, and that she will be replacing Laura Bishop. Chair Vekich then asked Commissioner Finney to give an introduction about herself. Commissioner Finney stated that she is from St. Paul and is very involved in community engagement. She is currently on the board of the YWCA as well as the City of St. Paul Neighborhood’s STAR board, and works at PwC in the Marketing and Strategy/Development department, as a Tax Marketing Manager.

**a. Action Items**

**i. Operating Account Budget Increase – NCAA Final Four Event Expense**

Mr. Farstad stated that costs for the NCAA Final Four event have now been finalized and the total event costs are \$6,935,989. Staff is requesting an increase of \$20,981 to the NCAA Final Four event expense line item budget and to the 2018-2019 Operating Account budget. This request will increase the NCAA Final Four event expense budget to \$6,935,989 and will increase the total Operating Account expense budget to \$52,422,178. *See, Exhibit B.*

Commissioner Butts Williams asked Mr. Farstad if this was the final expense of Final Four and if it closes out the event, and Mr. Farstad stated that it did.

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

*The MSFA approves an increase of \$20,981 to the Operating Account expense budget for a total NCAA Final Four event expense budget of \$6,935,989. The MSFA also approves an increase of \$20,981 to the 2018-2019 revised Operating Account expense budget for a total budget of \$52,422,178.*

**ii. Capital Reserve Account Budget Increase – Darkening Solution Project**

Mr. Farstad stated that during the year, the capital project plan was modified and projects were added to the plan and/or project budgets were changed. The costs for the darkening solution project have now been finalized, and total project costs are \$5,256,729. Staff is requesting an increase of \$56,729 to this project budget and to the 2018-2019 capital expense budget for a total capital reserve expense budget of \$8,968,792. *See, Exhibit C.*

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

*The MSFA approves an increase of \$56,729 to the darkening solution project budget for a final project budget of \$5,256,729. The MSFA also approves an increase of \$56,729 to the 2018-2019 revised capital reserve expense budget for a total budget of \$8,968,792.*

### iii. MSFA Chair Compensation

Commissioner McCarthy stated that he is requesting the MSFA board increase the annual salary of the MSFA Chair from \$60,000 to \$96,000, effective October 1, 2019. He stated that Chair Vekich has demonstrated significant leadership and made major contributions to the MSFA by initiating the creation of the MSFA's strategic plan, as well as developing and maintaining key strategic relationships with Governor Walz, the Minnesota legislature, the City of Minneapolis council members, the Mayor, the local business community, and the Minnesota Vikings. The Chair's current compensation is based on a 20-hour work week, however; because Chair Vekich is working 32 hours a week, Commissioner McCarthy believes that he should be compensated fairly for his time, and recommends Chair Vekich keep his current hourly rate, but be paid for the additional 12 hours of work each week. *See, Exhibit D.*

Commissioner Burns Finney asked if the salary is a yearly salary, and Commissioner McCarthy stated that the salary can be changed due to the number of hours worked by the chair.

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

*The MSFA approves an increase of \$36,000 in the annual salary of the Chair, increasing the Chair's salary to \$96,000, effective October 1, 2019. The base salary for the Chair's position will remain at \$60,000.*

## b. Report Items

### i. 2029-2020 Property Insurance Report

Mary Fox-Stroman, Director of Finance at the MSFA, stated that Willis Towers Watson marketed the MSFA's property insurance program to ten carriers to obtain competitive terms and pricing. Four carriers toured the stadium and were informed about its many features and operations. AIG quoted an insurance limit of \$1 billion

and Travelers offered a quote for the excess layer of \$200 million. The program includes terrorism insurance and it has a \$100,000 deductible. See, Exhibit E for the breakdown of coverage.

Chair Vekich asked Ms. Fox-Stroman if the terms are the same as the prior year, and Ms. Fox-Stroman stated that there are no major changes, and nothing has been added.

## ii. Executive Director Report

Mr. Farstad stated that the MSFA has posted an RFP for new armor deck that will cover the field for non-Vikings' game events, as a field protectant. Verizon and AT&T have also begun installing 5G within U.S. Bank Stadium, which will work inside the stadium, as well as outside the stadium on the plaza. Lastly, Mr. Farstad noted that the MSFA is revamping its equity program, and is working closely with Aramark and SMG to create an equity committee to broaden the demographic of event day staff, as well as companies who submit proposals through the RFP process. The MSFA and their equity advisors, Tempo Creative, will be conducting interviews with employee assistance firms, as well as women and minority owned business in hopes to establish the equity goals.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Constance Peppin: Ms. Peppin read from an article titled "Vanishing: More Than 1 in 4 Birds Has Disappeared in the Last 50 Years" by Gustave Axelson. The article discussed a study that stated that the wild bird populations in the continental U.S. and Canada have declined by almost 30% since 1970, which is a loss of 2.9 billion breeding adult birds. The article can be found at:

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/vanishing-1-in-4-birds-gone/>

Ms. Peppin stated that the decline in the bird population is an ecological disaster unfolding around us, and that given the crisis, humans need to do everything in their power to prevent more fatalities. She stated that the Cornell lab of ornithology says that making windows safe is the number one most important action to help birds, and Ms. Peppin stated that because solutions are available, the MSFA must act immediately to make the windows at U.S. Bank Stadium more bird safe.

2. Stephen Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield stated that the windows of U.S. Bank Stadium are the greatest impact of bird mortality, and that the death toll will continue to rise as the vegetation around the stadium continues to mature throughout the years. Mr. Greenfield noted that Allianz Field has taken great efforts to reduce bird mortalities and has received a lot of positive publicity since the stadium opened. Lastly, Mr. Greenfield stated that there are many ways to help prevent the future deaths of birds, and he encourages the MSFA to look into options as soon as possible.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Chair Vekich announced that today would be Patrick Talty's last day at U.S. Bank Stadium. He stated that Mr. Talty provided leadership and a strong vision of success for a stadium which has become truly a gold standard in the NFL and across all event venues worldwide. He noted Mr. Talty has dedicated countless hours to developing a high performing team who live the mission of creating memorable experiences, and championed the stadium's multi-faceted service program which united the stadium partners in service excellence. Chair Vekich stated that Mr. Talty also served as Vice Chair of Sports Minneapolis since the organization's inception in 2016, and was recognized as a Power Player Facility Manager by the Sports Business Journal in 2017. Throughout his time at U.S. Bank Stadium, Chair Vekich stated that Mr. Talty executed a successful Grand Opening, ran three flawless X-Games events, Super Bowl LII, and the 2019 NCAA's Final Four. Mr. Vekich then stated that throughout the years, U.S. Bank Stadium has won many awards, all which would not have been possible without Mr. Talty's leadership. Some of these awards include: Best New Venue Award by the Stadium Business Awards in 2017 and the Venue Excellence Award by the International Association of Venue Managers in 2019. Lastly, Mr. Vekich stated that Mr. Talty brought over 4.64 million guests through the doors of U.S. Bank Stadium in a course of over 1,150 events since the opening in 2016. Chair Vekich stated that Mr. Talty will be missed, and congratulated him on his new adventure in Indianapolis.

Mr. Talty stated that he could not have had so much success without his high performing team. He noted that he has worked in two other NFL stadiums in the past, and that the staff at U.S. Bank Stadium has been the best he has ever seen. He also stated that he is so thankful for the MSFA board and the Minnesota Vikings for allowing him the opportunity to be the first General Manager of the stadium, and for trusting him to run such a large operation. Mr. Talty praised the MSFA board and stated that they

should feel happy and proud of their work, as U.S. Bank Stadium is truly the people's stadium as well as a multi-purpose building which is used for so many more events than just NFL football. Mr. Talty also stated that there have been a lot of concerts at the stadium, and the artists all love the energy of crowds in Minneapolis. He noted that leaving U.S. Bank Stadium was a hard decision, but he is looking forward to moving closer to his extended family. Lastly, Mr. Talty stated that the stadium is the gold standard and that he will miss all of the stadium staff and partners.

Commissioner McCarthy thanked Patrick for his work over the years and stated that he had never met anyone so skilled when working with unions and putting together contracts. He noted that his job was not easy, and he appreciates all he has done for the stadium.

Commissioner Butts Williams then thanked Patrick for all he has done throughout the years. She stated that he is leaving his legacy at U.S. Bank Stadium, and that his legacy will never dissipate.

Chair Vekich then asked John Drum, Interim General Manager of SMG, to address the MSFA board. Mr. Drum stated that he is really looking forward to working with the MSFA board of directors during the time of transition, and he is honored to be able to step into the role until a permanent candidate is found for the General Manager position. He noted that Mr. Talty will be missed greatly, but that his legacy will always be within U.S. Bank Stadium.

#### 7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Chair Vekich announced that the next MSFA meeting will be held on October 18, 2019, at U.S. Bank Stadium in Medtronic Club at 9:00 A.M.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the MSFA, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

*Approved and adopted the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019, by the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority.*



---

Tony Sertich, Secretary/Treasurer



---

James Farstad, Executive Director



## Exhibit A

MINNESOTA SPORTS FACILITIES AUTHORITY  
Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2019 at 9:00 A.M.  
U.S. Bank Stadium – Medtronic Club  
401 Chicago Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vekich called the meeting of the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (“MSFA” or “Authority”) to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Chair Michael Vekich, Bill McCarthy, and Barbara Butts Williams

Commissioners absent: Tony Sertich

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – July 19, 2019. See, Exhibit A.

4. BUSINESS

a. Action Items

i. Authorize Negotiations for the Property Insurance Program

Mary Fox-Stroman, Director of Finance, stated that the property insurance policy expires on September 18, 2019, and a new policy will need to be placed prior to the next board meeting on September 30, 2019, and the Chair and Executive Director will need to select a provider before the next board meeting to ensure there is no gap in coverage. Willis Towers Watson has been actively marketing the property

insurance program, and will receive final quotes in early September 2019 on the policy's coverages, limitations, and premiums. See, Exhibit B.

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

*The MSFA authorizes the Chair and Executive Director to finalize negotiations and enter into a contract for the property insurance program. A full insurance report will be presented at the next MSFA board meeting.*

**ii. Authorize Negotiation for the Fan Cam License Agreement**

The Minnesota Vikings wish to enhance the fan experience by installing cameras which make it easier for fans to share their experience on social media. The Vikings will be responsible for the cost, but the MSFA would like to have rights to the technology, so it will be able to use the cameras for events such as concerts, dirt events, and more. See, Exhibit C.

Commissioner Butts Williams 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 negotiate and execute a Fan Cam License Agreement, enter into an agreement with the Minnesota Vikings to reflect this and enter into an agreement with Fan Cam for Authority use.*

**iii. Approve Gephart Contract**

Mr. Farstad stated that some critical electrical work needs to be completed within the stadium. He recommends Gephart Electric complete these projects as they have been involved with the stadium since construction and have familiarity with the stadium. See, Exhibit D.

Commissioner Butts Williams 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 negotiate and execute a contract agreement with Gephart Electric in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.*

## **b. Report Items**

### **i. Executive Director Report**

Mr. Farstad stated that on August 8, 2019 U.S. Bank Stadium was designated as the first professional sports stadium to achieve LEED Platinum certification. Since the stadium's opening, it has diverted 1,862,000 pounds of recyclable materials and 950,000 pounds of compost materials from landfills. Mr. Farstad stated that the stadium has also used renewable energy credits to power the stadium 100% by wind energy. He noted that this achievement validates the hard work and dedication of stadium staff for their sustainable efforts within U.S. Bank Stadium.

Mr. Farstad stated that the new artificial playing surface was manufactured, supplied, and installed by Act Global Americas. The installation began on May 18<sup>th</sup> with substantial completion around June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The old turf was traded-in to Act Global Americas, who then distributed portions of it to pre-schools, play areas, and green spaces to be reused for recreational uses. Mr. Farstad stated that the project was considered zero waste, as roughly 1.1 million pounds of turf, sand, and rubber in-fill was recycled or repurposed.

Mr. Farstad stated that the MSFA and stadium partners have recently completed ten concession projects, seven stadium facility improvement projects, seven Minnesota Vikings designated projects, two security projects, and two production projects.

### **ii. SMG Highlights of Upcoming Events**

Patrick Talty, General Manager of SMG, stated that that U.S. Bank Stadium hosted its 3rd X-Games event, and that it was a great success. He noted that U.S. Bank stadium will be hosting the X-Games for a 4th year in 2020, and he is hoping for a large turnout similar to previous years. Mr. Talty stated that

there have been two Vikings games within the last six days, and that his staff has been working hard to prepare for the next eight home games as well. Besides football, U.S. Bank Stadium is gearing up for a fall hiring fair, as additional staff is needed for the Minnesota Vikings' season.

John Fitzgibbon, District Manager of Aramark, provided the MSFA board with a food and beverage update. Mr. Fitzgibbon stated that stadium partners combed through food and beverage surveys, and found the common theme was a desire to expand the variety of food, and to better distribute concessions throughout the concourses. Mr. Fitzgibbon stated that Aramark has partnered with new brands, and has taken existing stands and converted some of them into new concepts. Some new food items that stadium partners are excited about include: all beef bourbon bacon hot dogs, updated nachos, and new 4<sup>th</sup> street skewers.

#### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Wendy Haan: Ms. Haan represents the coalition of bird conservation groups. She stated that the stadium is located in the Mississippi Flyway used by hundreds of thousands of birds twice a year, and the problem of bird-glass collisions will only worsen as trees and other vegetation near the Stadium mature. She congratulated the MSFA on the stadium's LEED Platinum certification, which reflects the MSFA's implementation of a variety of environmentally-friendly practices, but strongly believes that the ongoing bird-glass collision problem means that the stadium won't be truly sustainable or green until the reflective glass is retrofitted to protect migratory birds. Ms. Haan noted that the Audubon has been asking the MSFA since 2014 to meet LEED standard for bird safety to reduce bird injury and mortality from in-flight collisions with buildings by developing a film over the glass and reducing exterior lighting. Ms. Haan stated she is disappointed that MSFA did not choose to invest in this environmental issue and urges the MSFA to take steps to make the stadium safe for birds.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

There was no discussion.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Chair Vekich announced that the next MSFA meeting will be held on September 30, 2019, at U.S. Bank Stadium in Medtronic Club at 9:00 A.M.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the MSFA, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 A.M.

*Approved and adopted the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019, by the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority.*



---

Tony Sertich, Secretary/Treasurer



---

James Farstad, Executive Director



September 30, 2019

## Exhibit B

### MEMORANDUM

TO: MSFA Commissioners

FROM: James Farstad, Executive Director  
Mary Fox-Stroman, Director of Finance

SUBJECT: Approval of Amended 2018 – 2019 Operating Account Budget – NCAA Final Four event expenses

#### **Operating Account Budget**

The MSFA board approved at its June 28, 2018 meeting the 2018-2019 Operating Account budget with a total expense budget of \$51,978,777. On December 21, 2018 the MSFA board amended the budget and increased the NCAA Final Four event expense line item budget by \$422,420. The revised NCAA Final Four event expense total increased to \$6,915,008 and the revised total Operating Account expense budget increased to \$52,401,197.

Costs for the NCAA Final Four event have now been finalized and total event costs are \$6,935,989. Staff is requesting an increase of \$20,981 to the NCAA Final Four event expense line item budget and to the 2018-2019 Operating Account budget. This request will increase the NCAA Final Four event expense budget to \$6,935,989 and it will increase the total Operating Account expense budget to \$52,422,178.

***Recommended Motion: The MSFA approves an increase of \$20,981 to the Operating Account expense budget for a total NCAA Final Four event expense budget of \$6,935,989. The MSFA also approves an increase of \$20,981 to the 2018-2019 revised Operating Account expense budget for a total budget of \$52,422,178.***



September 30, 2019

## Exhibit C

### MEMORANDUM

TO: MSFA Commissioners

FROM: James Farstad, Executive Director  
Mary Fox-Stroman, Director of Finance

SUBJECT: Approval of Amended 2018 – 2019 Capital Project Budget – Darkening Solution Project

#### **Capital Reserve Account Budget**

On June 28, 2018 the MSFA board approved the 2018-2019 Capital Reserve Account plan and budget with a total capital expense budget of \$8,912,063. During the year the capital project plan was modified and projects were added to the plan and/or project budgets were changed. On March 15, 2019, the MSFA board approved the revised capital reserve project plan which included the darkening solution project budget of \$5,200,000.

Costs for the darkening solution project have now been finalized and total project costs are \$5,256,729. Staff is requesting an increase of \$56,729 to this project budget and to the 2018-2019 capital expense budget for a total capital reserve expense budget of \$8,968,792.

***Recommended Motion: The MSFA approves an increase of \$56,729 to the darkening solution project budget for a final project budget of \$5,256,729. The MSFA also approves an increase of \$56,729 to the 2018-2019 revised capital reserve expense budget for a total budget of \$8,968,792.***



September 30, 2019

## Exhibit D

### MEMORANDUM

TO: MSFA Commissioners

FROM: Bill McCarthy, Commissioner

SUBJECT: Request to Increase the MSFA Chair's Salary to \$XXXXX

I respectfully request the MSFA board increase the annual salary of the MSFA's Chair, Mr. Michael Vekich, from \$60,000 to \$XXXXX, effective October 1, 2019. This request is based on Mr. Vekich's service to the MSFA since July 22, 2017. During the past two years he has spearheaded the hosting of two major events at U.S. Bank Stadium including Super Bowl LII in 2018 and the NCAA Men's Final Four Basketball Championship games in 2019, he has demonstrated significant leadership and made major contributions to the MSFA, and he initiated the creation of MSFA's strategic plan. Mr. Vekich has been instrumental in developing and maintaining key strategic relationships with Governor Walz, the Minnesota legislature, the City of Minneapolis council members and mayor, the local business community, and the Minnesota Vikings. The salary requested is a base salary of \$60,000 and an increase of \$XXXXX which will bring the Chair's salary to \$XXXXX. This request is based on the Chair's planned workload and his time commitment to this organization for this fiscal year.

***Recommended Motion: The MSFA approves an increase of \$XXXXX in the annual salary of the Chair, increasing the Chair's salary to \$XXXXX, effective October 1, 2019. The base salary for the Chair's position will remain at \$60,000.***



September 30, 2019

## Exhibit E

### MEMORANDUM

TO: MSFA Commissioners

FROM: James Farstad, Executive Director  
Mary Fox-Stroman, Director of Finance

SUBJECT: Report on 2019 – 2020 Property Insurance Report

This is a report on MSFA's property insurance program. Willis Towers Watson is the broker/agent for this program, and they provide carrier marketing services, policy administration and management services, and claim advocacy services. The property insurance program is an all-risk property insurance policy that includes coverage for real and personal property, business interruption and boiler and machinery. The policy period is from September 18, 2019 through September 18, 2020.

Willis Towers Watson marketed the MSFA's property insurance program to ten carriers to obtain competitive terms and pricing. As part of their marketing efforts they invited the carriers to participate in a site visit of U.S. Bank Stadium. Four carriers toured the stadium and were informed about its many features and operations.

During the past year the property insurance marketplace has changed and insurers have been pursuing pricing increases and restricting coverages due to profitability challenges. Several insurance carriers have reduced their available insurance capacity. American Home Assurance Company (AIG), the Authority's property insurance carrier for the past three years, reduced their renewal insurance limit from \$1.2 billion to \$1 billion and their quote had a significant rate increase. Another carrier offered a quote with an insurance limit of \$1 billion, however the pricing was not competitive, other insurers were willing to participate on a "quota share" basis but this structure was not feasible, and one insurer declined to quote due to concerns with the E.T.F.E. in the roof.

A layer approach for the property insurance program offered the best pricing for the Authority. AIG quoted an insurance limit of \$1 billion and Travelers offered a quote for the excess layer of \$200 million. The program includes terrorism insurance and it has a \$100,000 deductible.

<u>Carrier</u>	<u>Layer</u>	<u>Premium</u>
AIG	Layer 1 - \$1.0 billion, primary	\$452,248.69
Travelers	Layer 2 - \$200 million, excess of \$1.0 billion	\$113,344.00
Willis Towers Watson	Broker fee	\$ 48,500.00
	Total	<u>\$614,092.69</u>

**Recommended Motion: *The MSFA approves the 2019-2020 Property Insurance Report.***