

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Public Facilities District - Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom and
at the Numerica Veterans Arena Boardroom | Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 12:30 pm

ITEM #1 TO ORDER

Board Chair Eakins convened the March 11th Board Meeting of the Spokane Public Facilities District at 12:30 PM.

ITEM #2 ATTENDANCE

In attendance were Board Chair Cami Eakins and Vice Chair Jon Neill, along with Board Members Paul Read and August Richardson. Board Member Dan Rey-Bear was excused from this meeting. District personnel attending in person included Paul Christiansen, Steve Marsh, Jennifer Kletke, Melissa Coulter, Jessica Deri, Mike Gaffaney, Shaundra Scott, and Ryan Gallagher. District personnel attending virtually were CEO Stephanie Curran and Matt Meyer.

Guests attending in person included PFD Contractor Rick Romero, Ross Wagley from Levy, Rose Noble from Visit Spokane, Scott Taylor and Aiden Hubbard from CarPark, and Dave Pier and Mark Miles from the Spokane Chiefs.

Chair Eakins opened the PFD Board of Directors' meeting by calling the March 11th meeting to order.

ITEM #3 CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Eakins presented the Consent Agenda items:

- PFD Board Minutes from February 11th.
 - *Mr. Neill has moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Read seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.*
- Mr. Read questioned whether legal fees still need to be reviewed by the board, noting uncertainty about the change of process.
 - Clerk of the Board, Ms. Scott, explained that staff now handles legal fee review internally, eliminating the need for board approval
 - Ms. Eakins clarified that legal invoice review and approval are within the CEO's authorization, addressing a question about the recent change in process.

ITEM #4 DISTRICT BUSINESS

Introduction of newly appointed PFD Board Member: August Richardson

- August Richardson was introduced as the newest board member, followed by introductions from all attendees.
 - Mr. Richardson brings 21 years of hospitality experience and background working with Seattle convention facilities. He was born and raised in Spokane and is excited to make an impact on the facilities he grew up using.
 - Mr. Richardson will choose which two committees from the available options he wants to join.

Quarter 4 Reports

- Rose Noble presented detailed year-end convention business results and outlook for the future.
 - Ms. Noble reported that 106 groups in 2025 accumulated 76,000 contracted room nights, 45,00 attendees, and \$42 million in economic impact.
 - Also in 2025, there were 39 site and planning visits conducted, 65 attendance building campaigns, and over 1100 referrals to local businesses.
 - 99% post-convention satisfaction rate maintained, consistent with 98.5-99% range in recent years.
 - Ms. Noble presented that 2026 shows 69 definite groups, 44,000 attendees, over 61,000 hotel rooms, and \$41.8 million in economic impact.
 - Ms. Noble concluded that national trends show hesitation in signing contracts, and even though 2025 fell short of room night goals, we maintained high satisfaction rates and have a strong foundation for future years with bookings through 2030.

- Lastly, Ms. Noble announced that Monica Kirn-Pea was hired as the new VP of Sales and Services of Visit Spokane.
 - Ms. Kirn Pea comes from the Oregon Convention Center and is already making an impact.
- Mr. Read asked Ms. Rose to provide a crystal ball outlook, given the headwinds of the last 18 months, noting that 2027 also looks uncertain, while 2028 seems more promising.
 - Ms. Rose said they are monitoring the economy and see potential recession worries and hesitancy to sign contracts. She also noted that the West Coast markets are showing similar downturn trends, but they remain optimistic since AMCI hosting has already generated 3 RFPs.
 - Ms. Rose stated that they have designated 2027 as the year to concentrate on growth with strategic marketing priorities.
 - Mr. Read acknowledged the uncertainty across all Spokane sectors, causing delayed decision-making, and requested communication when triggers start being pulled to help the PFD with planning.
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ITEM #5 CEO UPDATE

Ms. Curran's Update On Several Legislative Bills That Could Impact the PFD

- Most of the concerning bills either died or are moving toward favorable outcomes.
- Regarding House Bill 6113, which initially raised concerns because it would tax convention registrations, a non-profit exemption seems likely to pass, covering the majority of conventions. It's now heading to the Senate for final approval.

ITEM #6 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Eakins calls for any public comments.

- No public comments.

ITEM #7 BOARD TRAINING SCHEDULE

Chris Varallo with Kutak Rock outlined upcoming board training sessions.

- Starting with the next meeting on March 25th, Chris and another Kutak Rock associate will give a half-hour board training on proper board governance best practices.
- Then there will be a follow-up session a couple of weeks later that will cover Public Meetings and the Public Records Act.
- These sessions will take place after public comments, so still part of the public meeting but optional for public attendance.

ITEM #8 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 1:04 PM.

Shaundra Scott, Clerk of the Board

Approved by the Board of Directors at the following Board Meeting.