

**MINUTES**  
**Spokane Public Facilities District - Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Via Webinar & at Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena Board Room**  
**Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 12:30pm**

**ITEM #1 TO ORDER**

Board Chair Dickinson convened 831<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Spokane Public Facilities District at 12:30 PM.

**ITEM #2 ATTENDANCE**

In attendance was Board Chair Marty Dickinson and Board Members Harry Sladich, and Ed Bruya. Vice Chair Paul Read and Board Member Nate Greene were excused. Board Chair Dickinson exited the meeting at 1:40pm with CEO Stephanie Curran acting as Chair at that point. District personnel attending in-person included CEO Stephanie Curran, Matt Meyer, Steve Marsh, Mike Gaffaney, Paul Christiansen, Ryan Gallagher, Jessica Deri, Jennifer Kletke, Melissa Coulter, Andrew Dolan, and Kay Riplinger. District personnel attending virtually included Tina Gallegos, Nic Lawrence. Guests attending in person included Chris Varallo with Witherspoon-Kelley, Ruth Fitzgerald with Visit Spokane, Ashley Blake from Spokane Sports, Justin Kobluk from West Coast Entertainment, and Scott Taylor from The Car Park. Guests attending virtually included, Ryan Nackers with Levy, Dan Holman with the USL, Matthew Huelette, Mark McCullers, and Cortland McCullers with McCullers Sports, and Andrea Pierce with Diamond Parking.

Board Chair Dickinson adjourned the Board to an Executive Session at 12:37PM per RCW 42.30.110 (i) regarding Potential Litigation for approximately 20 minutes with no action expected. The board returned to the board room at 12:59PM with no action taken.

**ITEM #3 CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Chair Dickinson presented the Consent Agenda items.

- **Approval of Minutes for October 26, 2022**

Mr. Bruya moved approve the October 26 minutes as presented, Mr. Sladich seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

- **Approval of Witherspoon-Kelley Invoices for September 2022**

Mr. Sladich moved approve Witherspoon-Kelley September 2022 invoices, Mr. Bruya seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

**ITEM #4 DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**Finance Committee**

Mr. Marsh indicated the PFD is working on the budget with the First Reading November 20 and Second Reading December 14.

Board Chair Dickinson stated the Finance Committee had met this morning and reviewed ongoing discussions with our USL partners and deal points that are being discussed. She reiterated that on behalf of the PFD Board and the PFD, the Board is unified and supportive of in moving in a positive direction with the USL. As Chair of a PFD, we are stewards of public dollars, as well as partners with Spokane Public Schools. We are working through this process to ensure we are good stewards to the public, and acting as the board has been entrusted to operate. We believe this is a positive opportunity, and, if we stay the course with the current deal points, a positive result is imminent. If language in the deal points change, we may need to pause and re-group. Appreciation to all parties involved.

Mr. Sladich added that PFD and PFD Board is committed to hoteliers and transparency of information. The PFD continues to work on the financial statements process.

**Operations:**

No report.

**Project:**

No report.

**Convention Center and The Podium 2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report:**

Ms. Deri detailed a report of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter for 2022 noting (46) events at the Convention Center with an economic impact at just over \$22m with 25k+ room nights. The Convention Center experienced the busiest summer on record including (6) citywides and is currently at 81% to goal for 2022.

Customer Surveys returned in a revised format making it more streamlined for clients. Out of a total of (5), Q2 = 4.64, Q3 = 4.55, and YTD = 4.61, a 95% satisfaction.

**Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena and First Interstate Center for the Arts 2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report:**

Mr. Meyer reviewed 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2022 for the Arena with highlights and events including Backstreet Boys, Machine Gun Kelley, Korn, Iron Maiden, and Chiefs Camp. Announced shows include WWE, Kane Brown, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Monster Jam, Disney On Ice, PBR. The First Interstate Center for the Arts Q3 included multiple comedy shows, Hadestown and Hairspray, Chicago (the band), Tom Segura, Justin Moore, and (2) sold out Bert Kreischer shows. Announced shows include Jo Koy, Peppa Pig, Our Planet Live. Focusing on creative options for Q1 2023 and Podium and Stadium events as well as USL.

**Visit Spokane 2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report:**

Ms. Fitzgerald detailed 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter for 2022 reporting citywide room nights of just over \$14k, and as a result, exceeding their goal. Pace for Q4, 2023-2027 was reviewed indicating 2025 prospects are notably high. Consumption benchmarks have been set. Ms. Fitzgerald reported VS has been operating with half the team they had in 2019. In comparison to 2019, Visit Spokane is at 66% of room nights and 77% of leads.

**Spokane Sports Commission 2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report:**

Ms. Blake stated The Podium won the Best New Sports Facility award and shared a video shown at the award presentation. Other awards include Best New or Renovated Venue from Sports Travel magazine. Ms. Blake discussed 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter for 2022, reviewed current award submissions, cited development travel, and added there are currently (30) events in 2023 with (78) event days.

Sports is very short-term so there are several possibilities Spokane Sports is working on with the PFD's Ms. Deri and Mr. Dolan. Spokane Sports is a finalist for the 2023 Junior Badminton World Championships which is a (21) day event.

Spokane Sports will announce a new CEO shortly.

Mr. Christiansen added Spokane Sports is working with the Parks Department in order for them to utilize The Podium for some of their programs. The Parks has provided the land upon which The Podium sits.

**ITEM #5**

**CEO Update**

USL: Finance Committee meeting met this morning regarding the USL. The PFD will communicate with the USL as referred to earlier to in today's board meeting.

Parking RFP: Vendors have applied and presented. The RFP Committee sent out clarifying questions to parking vendors and the committee is currently reviewing responses.

Fire Alarms in Buildings: The new procedures have resulted in multiple false alarms within a few week period. One alarm caused building evacuation just prior to show start. Guest and staff security and safety is always at the forefront, yet false alarms cause multiple issues. Discussion included that the FICA remodel a few years ago included all required fire regulations and mandates. Ms. Curran has

reached out to the Mayor and city regarding this issue and added a letter from Mr. Kobluk on false alarm ramifications.

Parks Department: PFD and Parks met to coordinate goals and events.

Concerts in The Podium: The Podium held its first two concerts in October. Mr. Meyer working with promoter Creston and Live Nation on future bookings. AEG has an exclusive with the Pavilion.

GSL/WIAA: Ms. Curran re-stated the importance of GSL/WIAA here in Spokane, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Christiansen, and Mr. Dolan met with the new GSL Director. The WIAA will be in Spokane mid-November and PFD will meet with them.

#### **ITEM #6 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Curran opened the Board Meeting for Public Discussion.

Mr. Kobluk added to the conversation regarding fire alarms/false fire alarms at the FICA and, as safety is the priority, false alarms make a substantial impact to events and public safety.

The next SPFD Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 12:30PM at the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena.

#### **ITEM #8 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 2:00PM

Michelle McIntyre, Clerk of the Board

Approved by the Board of Directors

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The SPFD Board's minutes are intended to be a reasonable summary of the Board's deliberations and actions. The minutes are not a verbatim record of everything said at the meeting. The minutes include all actions taken by the Board.