

**MINUTES**  
**Spokane Public Facilities District - Board of Directors Meeting Via Webinar**  
**& at Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena Board Room | Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 12:30pm**

**ITEM #1 TO ORDER**

Board Chair Read convened 872<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Spokane Public Facilities District at 12:30 PM.

**ITEM #2 ATTENDANCE**

In attendance was Chair Paul Read, along with Vice Chair Bruya and Board Member Cami Eakins and Jon Neill. Board Member Harry Sladich was excused and Ed Bruya joined at executive session, (1:20pm). District personnel attending in-person included, CEO Stephanie Curran, Jessica Deri, Mike Gaffaney, Matt Meyer, Paul Christiansen, Melissa Coulter, Nic Lawrence, and Ryan Gallagher. District personnel attending virtually included, Kaila Jones, Andrew Dolan, Katy Gray, and Jose Angel. Guests attending in person included Chris Varallo with Kutak Rock, and Scott Taylor with The Car Park. Guests attending virtually included Aiden Hubbard with The Car Park, and Maureen Dodroe with Visit Spokane.

Chair Read we opened the PFD Board of Director's meeting with a thank you to the PFD team and partners highlighting past and future events.

And, Congratulations to Spokane Chiefs being awarded 'Business of the Year'.

Jon Neill:

A new PFD board member was introduced; appointed by the County. Mr. Neill is very well known and respected in the community, and is the Executive Director for Community Cancer Fund.

**ITEM #3 CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Read presented the Consent Agenda items.

- **Legal Invoices for Kutak Rock for March and Dunn & Black for March/April.**

*Ms. Eakins moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, Mr. Neill seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

**ITEM #4 DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**2024 Q4 Report.**

Mr. Meyer reviewed Q4 for The Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena, FICA, and entertainment at ONE Spokane Stadium and The Podium.

Announced: The Rock Orchestra, Dancing With the Stars, Alton Brown, Champions of Music, Styx, Aaron Lewis

The Podium: Dashboard Confessional, Hallowz Tide- Adventure Club. EDM crowd safer, people look out for each other- stay hydrated.

Stadium: Anything new announcing shows in Q2. Now Outlaw Festival in May, Comedy Festival in August.

Q4 Travel: Venues Now (OVG- Oak View Group), OVG Gala in NY, WME Golf Tournament- meetings with high profile promoters/managers,

2024 in Review: F & B Caps

The Car Park joined the PFD partner team in February 15, 2023. There was an Immediate change in customer service, revenue, per cap.

Rebrand: Continuing the process. A name has been agreed upon, finishing the package, and will bring to the board.

2026 is on target.

Arena Naming Rights: Work is ongoing.

Website RFP: RFP has gone out, will ramp up when Holly is back.

Chair Read inquired to the journey of the DBA. Mr. Meyer explained looking at it from all angles, such as how it sounds/flows, how is it presented in an email, etc.

Discussion about 2025 budget. Look to Qtr reports May 28 for any updates.

Discussion about FreshVue and the work the PFD, Visit Spokane, Spokane Sports does with them. FreshVue helps to find the mission, where we are, where are we going. PFD is a confusing term/name to the public and often confused with utilities. FreshVue has worked to overcome that hurdle.

Mr. Neill appointed to Operations and Art Committees.

*Ms. Eakins moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, Mr. Neill seconded and the motion was approved unanimously*

Ms. Curran explained the Art committee noting it was formed when the PFD was heavily procuring Art. It meets on an as-needed basis.

## **ITEM #5 MISCELLANEOUS**

### **CEO Report:**

Director Positions: New Directors hired - Director of Operations, Melissa Coutler. Director of Event Services, Nic Lawrence.

Legislation: HB 1109 to extend PFD sales tax passed for a 15-year extension.

Senate Bill 5676 to help prevent scalpers was denied.

Senate Bill 5801 add \$1 admission tax to events over 20k, includes staff. Not voted on- Spokane Sports sending info about this.

Senate Bill 5814 Sales tax of 5% to signage. Former Senator Ricelli brought our attention to this and the AWSPFD (Association of Washington State Public Facilities Districts) lobbyist, Jim Hedrick coordinated with all of the PFD's. This occurred Happened over the holiday weekend.

### Canada:

Ms. Deri explained Q1 was good. Q2 slowing down, and conventions are holding bookings.

Of surveys sent, 29% had decline in their attendance. It's two-fold, groups/planners are slower to sign as they hold out to see what will happen. PFD has reached out to work with clients and their events.

Mr. Meyer reported venues across the nation are slower than usual. At a Pollstar conference he recently attended, there were several conversations regarding the path forward.

The last few weeks, concerts scheduled for on sale have backed out. Some have kept a gap in the routing in case they can add Spokane back into the tour.

FICA is running well. Hamilton was expected at a loss but has at least broke even and maybe just over. WCE has tracked sales and the Canadian attendance is well down. The Podium will do well when concerts are announced.

Events booked such as the Rodeo, Cirque, Outlaw Festival have lower sales than expected at this point.

Chair Read asked to look at line items and if this path continues after/after Q2, look at budget.

Chiefs: Congratulations, the Spokane Chiefs won last night and are moving to round 3.

Mike Allen Podcast: Ms. Curran was on the podcast discussing the industry.

Chair Read calls for any public comments. There were no comments.

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**ITEM #6 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board Chair Read adjourned the Board to an Executive Session at 1:20PM per RCW 42.30.110 (i) regarding Litigation for approximately (60) minutes with no action expected. The board returned to the board room at 2:19PM with no action taken.

**ITEM #7 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 2:20PM.

Michelle McIntyre, Clerk of the Board

Approved by the Board of Directors at following meeting.

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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.