



REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: June 23, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Two DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst

Members in Attendance:

John Ballantyne, Chairman

Joseph Buckelew, Vice Chairman – via phone

Vincent Prieto, President and CEO

Robert Dowd, Member

Armando Fontoura, Member

Michael H. Gluck, Esq., Member – via phone

Michael Griffin, NJ State Treasurer's Representative – via phone

Woody Knopf, Member – via phone

Steven Plofker, Member

Anthony Scardino, Member – via phone

Louis J. Stellato, Member - via phone

Robert Yudin, Member

Absent:

Michael Gonnelli, Member

Andrew Scala, Member

Also Attending:

Christine Sanz, Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer

Frank Leanza, Senior Vice President/Chief of Legal & Regulatory Affairs – via phone

Adam Levy, Vice President of Legal & Regulatory Affairs

John Duffy, Senior Vice President of Sports Complex Operations & Facilities

Sara Sundell, Director of Land Use Management and Chief Engineer

Anna Acanfora, Director of Finance

Steven Cattuna, Chief of Staff

Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer

Lauren LaRusso Governor's Authorities Unit – via phone

Colleen Mercado, Senior Operations Administrator

Chairman Ballantyne called the meeting to order.

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Opening Statement – Chairman Ballantyne read the Notice of Meeting required under the Sunshine Law.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CASH DISBURSEMENTS**
Chairman Ballantyne presented the minutes from the May 26, 2022 Regular Session Board meeting.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Plofker and seconded by Commissioner Yudin the minutes of the Regular Session Board Meeting held on May 26, 2022 were unanimously approved.

Chairman Ballantyne presented the minutes from the May 26, 2022 Executive Session.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Dowd and seconded by Commissioner Fontoura the minutes of the Executive Session held on May 26, 2022 were unanimously approved.

Chairman Ballantyne presented the report of cash disbursements over \$100,000 for the month of May 2022.

Upon motion by Commissioner Dowd and seconded by Commissioner Yudin, the cash disbursements over \$100,000 for the month of May 2022 were unanimously approved.

V. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATON ON RESOLUTIONS** - None

Chairman Ballantyne took the opportunity to highlight the big news from last week. He stated that FIFA officially announced that the NY/NJ Host City partnership would be hosting soccer matches at MetLife Stadium as part of the FIFA World Cup 2026. He said that it was no surprise that FIFA recognized the NY/NJ region and the Meadowlands in particular, to host one of the world's most popular sporting events. He went on to say that the 2026 FIFA World Cup will serve as a boon to economic growth in the Meadowlands and the State's tourism industry; and he welcomed the opportunity to highlight the area's dynamic downtowns, plentiful shopping and dining hotspots, and additional amenities. Chairman Ballantyne thanked and congratulated the whole team that worked tirelessly to bring this program to the State of New Jersey and he commended their efforts on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

President Prieto said that the NJSEA was very proud that FIFA recognized MetLife Stadium as a world-class venue where all the attributes in the Meadowlands can be showcased. He noted that the NJSEA's goal of bringing world-class sporting events to the Meadowlands is ongoing and he specifically noted that the Authority was currently bidding for the Concacaf 2025 Gold Cup soccer tournament, the men and women's USA Rugby World Cup, as well as the World Cup for cricket.

VI. **CONTRACTS/AWARDS**

Resolution 2022-26

Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the President and CEO to Execute a Lease Agreement with Greens Do Good Reed, Inc. and Memorandum of Understanding By and Among the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, Greens Do Good Reed, Inc., and Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Chairman Ballantyne stated that Resolution 2022-26 authorizes an exciting joint project between the NJSEA, Greens Do Good and Ramapo College of New Jersey to construct an indoor vertical farm at the NJSEA's Lyndhurst campus. He stated that Greens Do Good, based in Hackensack, is part of the non-profit REED Autism Services Family of Programs and explained that the program provides vocational training and employment opportunities for those on the Autism spectrum. He said that this is an exemplary aspect of our partnership and furthers the NJSEA's goal of expanding economic growth and job opportunities in the Meadowlands District. Chairman Ballantyne welcomed REED Autism Services Family of Programs CEO Chantelle Walker to speak further on this program.

Ms. Walker thanked the Board for inviting her and explained that REED Autism Services is part of a family of four distinct non-profit organizations and that Greens Do Good is their indoor hydroponic vertical farm, launched in 2019, and intended to be a worksite for individuals with autism. She said that the reason this is so important is that New Jersey has the second highest rate of autism in the country. She stated that the REEDS Autism Services' internship program trains teens in indoor agriculture and that there are currently fifty teens every week at their farm in Hackensack. She advised that they grow 35 different varieties of produce that they sell to supermarkets, restaurants, country clubs and direct to consumers. She said that REED was very grateful to the Authority and the community for the opportunity to expand this training and employment to the Meadowlands.

President Prieto explained that when he was in the Legislature, autism was a very big challenge and working with elder workshops was something he took pride in. He said that the NJSEA has worked with REED for several years and that they were a tremendous organization offering valuable learning experiences and job opportunities to individuals on the Autism spectrum. He said that Ramapo College, in collaboration with Greens Do Good, is enhancing the project by establishing a certificate program in environmental sustainability for those on the Autism spectrum that will be training and working at the vertical farm. He continued by stating that the certification process promotes economic development in the Meadowlands District by demonstrating job applicants' skills and ability to excel in the workplace. He said that he is looking forward to the installation of the vertical farm and thanked Ms. Walker for collaborating with the NJSEA.

Commissioner Dowd said that this was a proud moment for the Authority and he was excited for NJSEA to be involved with this program as this was a real example of being inclusive. He said we are bringing people in and giving them a sense of belonging and involving them in innovation; they are learning a new skill and ability that hopefully will translate into life. He thanked Ms. Walker for her efforts.

Chairman Ballantyne presented Resolution 2022-26. Upon motion by Commissioner Scardino and seconded by Vice Chairman Buckelew, Resolution 2022-26 was unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0.

Resolution 2022-27

Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the President and CEO to Purchase Additional Radios and Ancillary Equipment from Motorola Solutions of New Jersey for the NJSEA Fire Department.

Commissioner Yudin stated that he had been a firefighter in Wyckoff for forty-five years. He explained that one of the problems that fire services around the country have is communications; one issue is due to the equipment being on different frequencies or it is antiquated. He said that the complex that the NJSEA fire department covers is quite large and if there were a fire they would need mutual aid – and to be able to communicate with the mutual aid company. He stated his support for this resolution and said he hopes the effort in upgrading their equipment continues so that they will have a first grade communication system in place.

Chairman Ballantyne presented Resolution 2022-27. Upon motion by Commissioner Yudin and seconded by Commissioner Dowd, Resolution 2022-27 was unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0.

Resolution 2022-28 Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing a Third Party Contract
Relating to the 2026 FIFA World Cup Host City Bid Announcement.

Mr. Levy began by mentioning the very successful event held on June 16, which announced the award of host city status to New York/New Jersey, amongst other cities and entities in the United States. He explained that this resolution was related to that event as it authorizes a contract with ESP Productions Inc., an event production service, which the NJSEA hired in cooperation with the Authority's New York City partners in order to put on the June 16 event. He stated that the cost for this contract is being split between the partners and that NJSEA's portion of the cost would be approximately \$96,000.00. He said that more specifically this resolution authorizes procurement of services under the exemption to public bidding. He explained that this exemption is for when items or services that are being purchased to compete successfully with other sports and entertainment facilities, and the authority deems it necessary to provide quality athletic contests including items and services that are related to promotional or advertising efforts associated to the event. He concluded by saying this resolution authorizes this exemption along with the contract itself.

Chairman Ballantyne presented Resolution 2022-28. Upon motion by Commissioner Fontoura and seconded by Commissioner Dowd, Resolution 2022-28 was unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0.

V. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Marvin Donadic of Cliffside Park made the following statements relative to the 2026 World Cup:

- He said that hosting World Cup matches in New Jersey is a bad idea.
- He noted that there had been talk of a \$500 million economic benefit to the region and inquired what portion of that benefit would go to New Jersey as opposed to New York.
- Mr. Donadic stated that visitors, who come to see the World Cup will go to New York, spend their money in New York and stay in New York not in New Jersey.
- He inquired whether visitors were going to know what New Jersey has to offer and asked if the NJSEA would be promoting New Jersey in relation to the 2026 World Cup.
- He stated that the economic benefit anticipated for New Jersey when MetLife Stadium hosted the Super Bowl in 2014 failed to materialize and did not happen during the 1994 World Cup at the old Giants Stadium.
- He asked who specifically formulated the idea of hosting World Cup events in New Jersey.
- He noted that the United States Football League has taken place this year only in Alabama and he stated that it would be a good idea for the League to put the teams back in their home cities. He asked whether the NJSEA would bring the NJ Generals to either MetLife Stadium, Red Bull Arena or Rutgers Stadium.
- He mentioned that in 1986 the Sports Authority placed a logo on the field at the old Giants Stadium that read, "New Jersey Meadowlands." He inquired whether the NJSEA could put the logo back on the field today.

President Prieto stated that the referenced \$500 million economic benefit was just an estimate and that the NJSEA has hired a consultant to identify New Jersey's economic impact. He emphasized that the World Cup is quite different from the Super Bowl, which was a one-day event; this will be a month-long event. He went on to say that the Meadowlands area has a very large number of hotels that visitors will stay at; there will be training facilities in New Jersey and there will be events associated with these facilities; along with fan fests that are also being planned in New Jersey. He explained that people will be here for an extended amount of time and are going to want to visit the Jersey Shore. He said the NJSEA would be taking part in promoting all that New Jersey has to offer. He said that it has been a collaborative effort that

started back in 2017 and one of the Authority's main goals since that time has been to highlight the Sports Complex. President Prieto said that relative to the United States Football League games that were held only in Alabama this year was due to the COVID protocols and moving forward the teams will play in their designated cities. He concluded by responding to the question of the Authority possibly putting a logo on the field at MetLife Stadium just like was done in 1986. He stated that the NJSEA owned the stadium at that time. MetLife is a private entity and the NJSEA's tenant so the Authority cannot dictate that.

Chairman Ballantyne stated that people will stay in New Jersey as it is convenient. He said that it is anticipated that there will be a great influx of visitors from Europe to watch the World Cup games and during the 1994 World Cup it was discovered that the visitors enjoyed walking rather than taking mass transit and so they are not expected to walk across the bridge into New York. He specifically noted that the economic benefit did materialize for New Jersey during the 1994 World Cup held at the old Giants Stadium.

Commissioner Plofker addressed Mr. Donadic stating that he could not imagine one major city in the country that did not vie or put in a bid to host games at the World Cup; and it would be remiss of the NJSEA not to have done so.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

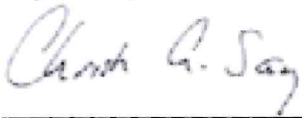
Chairman Ballantyne stated there was no need for Executive Session.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Fontoura seconded by Commissioner Dowd, followed by all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

I certify that on information and belief this is a true and accurate transcript of the Minutes of the Regular Session of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority Board Meeting held on June 23, 2022.



Christine Sanz
Assistant Secretary

June 23, 2022

Commissioner	Roll Call	2022-26	2022-27	2022-28
Ballantyne, Chairman	P	Y	Y	Y
Bucklelew, Vice Chairman	P	Y	Y	Y
Prieto	P	Y	Y	Y
Dowd	P	Y	Y	Y
Fontoura	P	Y	Y	Y
Gluck	P	Y	Y	Y
Gonnelli	--	--	--	--
Knopf	P	Y	Y	Y
Plofker	P	Y	Y	Y
Scala	--	--	--	--
Scardino	P	Y	Y	Y
Stellato	P	Y	Y	Y
Yudin	P	Y	Y	Y
Treasury Rep Griffin	P	Y	Y	Y

P = Present A = Abstain -- Absent
R = Recuse Y = Affirmative N = Negative