

**LOUISIANA STADIUM AND EXPOSITION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES**  
**FROM THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Present were Commissioners Vosbein, Landry, Becnel, Bowers, Cvitanovitch, and Richmond. A quorum existed.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Condos.

**WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN VOSBEIN**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Robert A. Vosbein, Jr. made introductory remarks with a focus on the Pelicans and the Saints; Super Bowl preparation; the success of the Taylor Swift concerts; and the acknowledgment of the successful Superdome Renovation Project that is nearing completion.

**I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 31, 2024, MEETING**

On motion of Commissioner Cvitanovitch, seconded by Commissioner Richmond, the Minutes from the October 31, 2024, LSED meeting were adopted without objection.

**II. ASM/SMG REPORT (INCLUDING OPERATIONS)**

The ASM/SMG Report was led by Doug Thornton. Mr. Thornton began his report by noting the progress of the Superdome Roof Cleaning Project, which is part of the effort to prepare the building for Super Bowl activities. Mr. Thornton also commented on the close-out of the Master Plan Project and deferred to Evan Holmes for an update on that subject.

**[This concludes the report of Mr. Thornton.]**

Evan Holmes began his report by noting that several areas of the Superdome are being used for Events, including the Bunker Club; Claiborne Club; and Club XLIV. As the Master Plan reaches its conclusion, there are several Certificates of Substantial Completion that needed review and approval for this meeting.

Mr. Holmes then turned his attention to Super Bowl preparation, both at the Superdome and across the City.

In terms of an Event Recap and Summary, the following Events included: the Little Wayne Fest; a Pelicans Season Update; the Marine Corps Ball on the Superdome floor; Jeff Dunham Comedy Show at the Smoothie King Center; the Saints games; the Sports Foundation Honors Luncheon; and the upcoming Louisiana High School Football Championship Games in early December. Mr. Holmes then turned the report over to Alex Bowen

Mr. Bowen noted the following current and future Events, including: the 85 South Comedy Event; Justin Timberlake's Tour; the Bayou Classic with Southern and Grambling; the rescheduled Nick Canon Show; Rod Wave, who is a hip-hop artist; and the Frankie Beverly Tribute. Future Events also include World Wrestling Federation Smackdown in February and Tyler Childers, a Country artist.

Mr. Holmes then reminded the LSED Board that the Smoothie King Center will host the 2025 USA Gymnastics National Championship, which is essentially a precursor that leads to the 2028 Olympics. ASM is also working closely with the SEC Gymnastics Championship and the LSU Gymnastics Program. The recent SEC Gymnastics Championship at the Smoothie King Center was a great success and broke attendance records.

As noted by Commissioner Richmond, the Superdome will also host the Sugar Bowl and the New Orleans Bowl, the latter being part of the newly constituted Football Playoff Series. The Sugar Bowl is a Quarter-Final Event. The Superdome is in the running for the College Football Championship, which will be in the 2027-2028 years. As Mr. Holmes reported, the NFL will take over the building in early January after the Sugar Bowl is completed in order to prepare for the Super Bowl in February.

**[This concludes the report of Evan Holmes.]**

Next, David Weidler and Daniel Burke covered the Financial Reporting.

Mr. Weidler reported on the Annual Audit Process, the status of the Hotel Tax Collections, and a strong cash flow report.

**[This concludes the report of David Weidler.]**

Daniel Burke then supplemented Mr. Weidler's comments by noting that the Fiscal Year 2025 Cash Flow Forecast shows a projected excess fund balance above \$10 million; a successful forecast, given the Hotel/Motel tax is the primary component of the LSED's Budget (and including a Collections Report); the financial success of the Taylor Swift Concert Series; the Smoothie King Pace Report showing 33 Events for Calendar Year 2024 which was slightly ahead of the Budget prediction of 31 Events. Income per Event increased above projected Budget numbers, which is attributable to the quality of the Events and the operational efficiencies of ASM.

**[This concludes the report of Daniel Burke.]**

Mr. Holmes then introduced the Sodexo Concession Team led by Bruce Kraus. Mr. Kraus then introduced Kernell Jupiter (General Manager), who then introduced the Sodexo Team: Patrick Carimi (Unit Controller); Lenny Martinsen (Regional Chef who is responsible for Food and Beverage Production); Bradley Greene (Operational Responsibilities at SKC, Champion Square, and Superdome); Matt Marker (Regional Data Analyst); James Colwell

(Director of Purchasing); Justin Roux (Director of Catering and Sweets); Amy Fazende (Director of Beverages); Helen Bridges (Human Resources – a 40-year Employee); and Scott Timothy (Director of Concessions Operations).

Mr. Kraus noted Sodexo’s role in the Community with Projects such as Dress for Success; the New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute; a program called Hospitality Essence; and Sodexo’s role in charitable donations. Chairman Vosbein then congratulated SoDE for its excellent work.

Mr. Richmond asked questions concerning Sodexo’s role in sourcing products locally. Mr. Kraus underscored the “local” focus of Sodexo to source seafood from New Orleans and Baton Rouge; the use of local bakeries and mom-and-pop bakeries, and the relationship with local Small Business Entrepreneurs. Mr. Richmond then congratulated Sodexo on its efforts to support Louisiana Seafood Producers in Louisiana-based business operations.

Eileen Long then covered the Construction Report, including: an update on the John Alario, Jr. Sports Complex and the fourth multi-purpose field; the Shrine on Airline; Construction Manager at Risk process; the Hub Club Renovation Project at the Smoothie King Center; and the wrapping up of the Superdome Roof Cleaning Project.

**[This concludes the report of Eileen Long.]**

Next, Kathleen Turner gave her report, which included: an emphasis on diverse, minority-owned suppliers; a Supplier Diversity Task Force; the YouthForce Partnership; the Junior Achievement Expo at College; a College Career Expo Day; and the ASM Summer Internship Program.

**[This concludes the report of Kathleen Turner.]**

### **III. LEGAL REPORT**

The Chairman then turned to Legal Counsel (Larry Roedel) to present 15 Resolutions on the Agenda for the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. On the recommendation of Legal Counsel, all 15 Resolutions were adopted. The Resolutions were submitted and approved by the LSED Commissioners. Copies of the complete Resolutions are attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

### **IV. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

(None at this time.)

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further Public comment, on motion of Commissioner Cvitanovitch, seconded by Commissioner Richmond, with all Commissioners present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 PM.