



**REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
REMOTE VIA ZOOM**

DATE: July 22, 2021
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Remote via Zoom
RE: **REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

Members in Attendance:

John Ballantyne, Chairman
Joseph Buckelew, Vice Chairman
Vincent Prieto, President and CEO
Robert Dowd, Member
Armando Fontoura, Member
Michael H. Gluck, Esq., Member
Michael Griffin, NJ State Treasurer's Representative
Woody Knopf, Member
Steven Plofker, Member
Anthony Scardino, Member
Louis J. Stellato, Member
Robert Yudin, Member

Absent:

Arthur Kapoor, Member
Andrew Scala, Member
Michael Gonnelli, Member

Also Attending:

Christine Sanz, Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer
Frank Leanza, Senior Vice President/Chief of Legal & Regulatory Affairs
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
Steven Cattuna, Chief of Staff
Edward Bulmer, Co-Director of Finance/Co-CFO
Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer
Gabrielle Bennett-Meany, Senior Natural Resources Specialist/Open Space Manager
Lauren LaRusso, Governor's Authorities Unit
Colleen Mercado, Senior Operations Administrator

Chairman Ballantyne called the meeting to order.

- I. Opening Statement - Chairman Ballantyne read the Notice of Meeting required under the Sunshine Law.

II. Roll Call

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CASH DISBURSEMENTS

Chairman Ballantyne presented the minutes from the June 24, 2021 Regular Session Remote Board meeting.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Stellato and seconded by Commissioner Scardino the minutes of the Regular Session Remote Board Meeting held on June 24, 2021, were unanimously approved.

Chairman Ballantyne presented the minutes from the June 24, 2021 Executive Session Remote Board meeting.

Upon motion by Commissioner Dowd and seconded by Commissioner Scardino the minutes of the Executive Session Remote Board Meeting held on June 24, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Chairman Ballantyne presented the report of cash disbursements over \$100,000 for the month of June 2021.

Upon motion by Commissioner Fontoura and seconded by Commissioner Yudin the cash disbursements over \$100,000 for the month of June 2021 were unanimously approved.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Chairman Ballantyne welcomed Gabrielle Bennett-Meany, Senior Natural Resources Specialist and Open Space Manager and stated that she would be giving a presentation on Richard W. DeKorte Park, the home of the NJSEA administrative offices and a true jewel of the Hackensack Meadowlands Park System. He noted that as part of Ms. Bennett-Meany's role as Open Space Manager, her many tasks include supervising and managing daily landscaping tasks at DeKorte Park, performing maintenance-related tasks and working on special outdoor projects including trail maintenance, outdoor classrooms, signage, planting trees and native plants, erosion control, interpretive kiosks and special gardens. He said that those who have been to DeKorte, both first-timers and long-timers, know how special the park is; and commented that if you do a google search for DeKorte Park you'll find more than 200 visitors' testimonials on this spectacular natural resource.

President Prieto commented on how lucky he is to work in DeKorte Park and said that when walking the park he sees everyone from birders to families to school children on field trips. He added that educators actually use DeKorte Park's unique urban ecosystem as a teaching tool and that DeKorte Park is also home to the NJSEA's special public programs and nature walks led by the Bergen County Audubon Society. He noted that the next special event would be the Meadowlands Birding Festival on Saturday, Sept. 12, which will include birding walks and talks and a special live raptor presentation.

Ms. Bennett-Meany began her presentation with an overview of the 3.5 miles of nature trails contained within DeKorte Park and also described the three memorials that are part of the Park. Her presentation included pictures of the various native plants that are flourishing and creating scenic backdrops throughout the Park. She mentioned some of the different birds and wildlife that can be seen when walking the trails. She said that the Park is definitely the

focal point of the Meadowlands DeKorte Park campus and gem of the Meadowlands. She concluded by saying that for whatever reason you visit; whether it be a nature walk, photography, education program, special event or research that all of the staff are involved in, this is such an important place. The accessibility of the park is important to us so that we are able to share it with folks that visit.

Commissioner Scardino thanked Ms. Bennett-Meany for a magnificent presentation and emphasized that she was an excellent teacher. He thanked her and her colleagues for all the work that they have done over the years. He went on to say that all the pictures and photos of DeKorte Park were gorgeous; but he wanted to impress upon everyone that probably all of it, if not most of it, was designated for garbage and unless this Agency had been created who knows what we would be seeing today. He said that instead of mounds of garbage and filth, we're seeing the beautiful pictures that have been shown today.

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

VI. **APPROVALS**

Resolution 2021-18 Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Contract for Insurance Brokerage Services.

Mr. Bulmer explained that the Authority had sent out a request for proposals for insurance brokerage services dated May 26, 2021 and that four responses were received. He stated that the NJSEA Evaluation Committee, which reviewed and ranked the proposals based on established criteria, is recommending Willis Towers Watson, who is the incumbent. He noted that staff has been very pleased with their services during the last contract.

Chairman Ballantyne presented Resolution 2021-18. Upon motion by Commissioner Scardino and seconded by Commissioner Stellato, Resolution 2021-18 was unanimously approved.

VII. **CONTRACTS/AWARDS** - None

VIII. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

IX. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Chairman Ballantyne stated that there was no need to go into Executive Session.

Before closing, Commissioner Yudin said that he wanted to thank President Prieto for the recent update he had provided to him regarding the damage, specifically by ATV's, being done on the Authority's properties. He thanked staff for moving ahead, being proactive and doing a number of things, such as having cameras installed. He said hopefully it will be successful and the Authority will be able to protect the properties from the environmental damage that it has been undergoing.

Commissioner Fontoura inquired as to whether there was a time frame for when the Board would be able to meet in person.

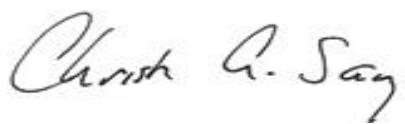
President Prieto responded that the goal right now was the September meeting unless something else happens.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Gluck and seconded by Commissioner Fontoura with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 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 Remote Board Meeting held on July 22, 2021.



**Christine Sanz
Assistant Secretary**

July 22, 2021

Commissioner	Roll Call	2021-18
Ballantyne, Chairman	P	Y
Buckelew, Vice Chairman	P	Y
Prieto	P	Y
Dowd	P	Y
Fontoura	P	Y
Gluck	P	Y
Gonnelli	--	--
Kapoor	--	--
Knopf	P	Y
Plofker	P	Y
Scala	--	--
Scardino	P	Y
Stellato	P	Y
Yudin	P	Y
Treasury Rep Griffin	P	Y

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