

Convention Facilities Advisory Board August 20, 2026, (Draft) Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Brandon Beckstead – Chair / Facility Stakeholder
Taylor Vriens – Vice Chair / Facility Stakeholder
Scott George – Hospitality Representative
Cyndi Sharkey – Sandy City Representative
Garrett Parker – Hospitality Representative (Virtual)
Pina Purpero – Hospitality Representative (Virtual)
Steven Fukumitsu – Community Representative (Virtual)

Staff Present (County / Venue Leadership)

Josh Ambrose – General Manager, Legends Global
Bart Allen – Assistant General Manager, Legends Global
Devon Shaughnessy – Director of Finance, Legends Global
Peter Mannebach – Accounting Analyst, Legends Global
Jed Hansen – Director of Events and Operations, Legends Global
Monica Ortega – Director of Operations, Legends Global
Nikki Taylor – Director of Sales, Legends Global
Scott White – Director of Public Safety, Legends Global
McKell Nelson – Sustainability, Legends Global
Courtney Strong – Director of Events, Legends Global
Trish Beagley – Communications Manager / Board Coordinator, Legends Global
Helen Schroeder – Attorney, SLCo District Attorney's Office
Arlyn Bradshaw – Associate Deputy Mayor, SLCo

Board Members Absent

Scott Phillips – Facility Stakeholder
Jeff Gwilliam – SLCo Arts Representative
Brittani Forbush Holbrook – Community Representative
Laurie Stringham – Council Member, SLCo
Kaitlin Eskelson – President, Visit Salt Lake

AGENDA

1) Roll Call and Agenda Review

- a) Chair Brandon Beckstead called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves and a roll call was conducted.

2) Review of Public Comments

- a) No public comments were received prior to or during the meeting.

3) Approval of Minutes from June 16, 2026 Meeting (Action Required)

- a) A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed with no opposition.

4) Legends Global Operational Assessment Update

- a) Monica Ortega shared preliminary results from the Salt Palace Convention Center operational assessment, with the venue receiving an 88% score. The team is reviewing and disputing select findings before the score is finalized. The assessment evaluates areas including cleanliness, safety, facility maintenance, and operational standards.

5) Mountain America Expo Center Sustainability Certifications

- a) McKell Nelson provided an update on efforts to pursue LEED Operations and Maintenance and Cleaning Industry Management Standard (CIMS) certifications for Mountain America Expo Center. Both third-party certifications focus on documented, sustainable operating practices and performance.

6) Sales and Event Retention Update

- a) Nikki Taylor reviewed ongoing efforts to retain and relocate business during the Salt Palace reconstruction period. The team is working with partners to move or adapt several events at Mountain America Expo Center, including USA Volleyball, Varsity Spirit, FanX, Western Hunt Expo, Utah Dental Association, and Associated Food Stores.

7) Sustainability-Focused Client Gift

- a) McKell Nelson presented a developing client appreciation gift focused on local partnerships and sustainability. Sample items included products made from repurposed venue materials and honey from venue beehives, with sustainability messaging planned throughout the final gift.

8) Customer Service Committee Update

- a) Courtney Strong shared that the customer service committee has been reestablished across both venues. The cross-departmental group will review guest touchpoints and Qualtrics feedback, address real-time service concerns, and develop annual customer service training opportunities.

9) Fired Up Culture Update

a) Trish Beagley provided an update on the partnership with Fired Up Culture, which includes a culture survey and leadership coaching. A total of 109 employees participated in the survey. Leadership will review the results on September 15, identify priorities and actions, and later share outcomes and next steps with employees.

10) 2026 YTD Financials

a) Peter Mannebach reviewed year-to-date financial performance. Salt Palace continues to exceed budget expectations, supported by strong food and beverage activity and event revenue, while expenses remain below budget. Mountain America Expo Center is performing generally as expected, with Q4 activity forecasted to support achievement of annual budget targets.

11) SPCC Construction Update

a) Josh Ambrose and Arlyn Bradshaw provided an update on Salt Palace reconstruction planning. The project remains in the conceptual design phase, with public design materials anticipated as planning progresses. Current concepts maintain sellable square footage while shifting some exhibit space to ballroom space, including a new rooftop ballroom. West-side halls are scheduled to close beginning February 16, 2027, with the remaining facility targeted to close after the final September 2027 event. Construction is currently projected at approximately 36–39 months, with the goal of hosting events in the reconstructed facility in Q1 2031.

12) Inquiry from board member – *Mountain America Expo Center Future Planning*

a) Board members and staff discussed potential future expansion opportunities at Mountain America Expo Center. No plans are finalized. The topic was identified as a potential item for further discussion at the Q4 meeting.

13) Adjournment

a) A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with no opposition.