



Independence FIFA World Cup Advisory Committee

February 23, 2026 2:00 PM,

**20201 E. Jackson Drive, First Floor, Santa Fe Conference Room 149, Independence, MO
64057**

CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 19, 2025
3. Reaffirmations of Committee Role

NEW BUSINESS

1. City Update
 - Watch party discussion
 - Transportation Update
2. Visit Independence
 - Summary of Initiatives
 - Alignment Opportunities
3. World Cup Website and Communications Update
 - Status Update
 - Tourism Messaging
4. Committee Priorities 60-90 Days

OLD BUSINESS

1. Community and Partner Activation Opportunities

OPEN DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS

ADJOURNMENT



Independence FIFA World Cup Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes December 19, 2025

Carlos Cabrera welcomed fellow Independence FIFA World Cup Advisory Committee members to the meeting at 12:00 p.m. The following members were present: Carlos Cabrera, Joyce Constance White, Charline Gray, Morris Heide Justice Horn, Angie Judy, JJ Kuntz, Shelby McClain, Jeff O'Neill, Cindi Rogers, Aldo Torres & Councilmember Jennie Vaught. City staff present were Lydia Calderon, & John Mayfield. Also present was Allison Calvin from Visit Independence.

Angie Judy moved to accept the meeting minutes from the September 16, 2025, meeting. Justice Horn seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Carlos Cabrera welcomed Allison Calvin to the meeting. Allison shared that Visit Independence was working on a visitor guide which will include a section devoted to the 2026 World Cup. Allison shared that Visit Independence staff has been working closely with the City Communications team on calendar items and the Trail to the Trophy Website. The City is working with the Mid America Regional Council (MARC) to add events to their regional calendar.

Allison also shared that she attended the KC 2026 meeting held on December 9, 2025, in Leawood, Kansas. The countries that are coming to Kansas City were announced prior to this meeting. Those countries include Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Curacao, Ecuador, the Netherlands and Tunisia. Countries are also selecting potential base camps, and several countries are looking at sites in the Kansas City metro. Those in attendance at the meeting were excited about the draw and are looking forward to the opportunities that may be ahead.

John Mayfield shared that from a City of Independence perspective that it has been announced that the Independence Center and the Independence Square have been selected as sites as part of the Connect KC 2026 transit service. The Independence Center has been designated as a Region and Stadium Direct site. Independence Center will be a destination to provide transportation to other Connect KC 2026 sites in the metro, including Fan Fest, and the matches at Kansas City Stadium. The Independence Square has been designated as a Region Direct location and will be used for transportation to other Connect KC 2026 sites including Fan Fest.

Carlos Cabrera announced that Chair Eileen Weir has stepped down from her role due to personal reasons. Members expressed their appreciation for her dedication and their sadness regarding her departure. Carlos Cabrera has volunteered to take on more leadership responsibility moving forward. Members expressed appreciation and encouraged Carlos to move forward.

Members discussed potential items the Committee may want to focus on in 2026. Members expressed their belief that they had provided the appropriate policy recommendations for the City of Independence to consider. Carlos said he would schedule a meeting with Tom Scannell, Councilmember Vaught and John Mayfield to discuss the future work of the Committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by John Mayfield.

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