## **DURHAM COUNTY MEMORIAL STADIUM AUTHORITY ("SA")**

(Minutes of the March 14, 2012 Special Call Meeting)

The Durham County Memorial Stadium Authority (the "SA"), convened at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at the Durham County Courthouse (Old) in Durham, North Carolina.

Members present included Chairman Tommy Hunt; Vice Chairman Willie Bradshaw; Dan Moushon; Frank Davis; and the undersigned, as Secretary. Present were the Honorable Pam Karriker representing the Durham County Board of Commissioners; Motiryo Keambiroiro; Director of General Services ("the Director"); Reco Chavis, Stadium Manager; and Carol Hammett, Deputy County Attorney. Also present were guest Allan Rigsbee, Athletic Director at Northern High School, and Nick Lehman, representing the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham.

The matters appearing on the agenda were as follows:

## Agenda Item #1: Stadium Strategic Plan.

Mr. Chavis announced that his office is working on the preparation of research and data for a five-year strategic plan for the Stadium to mirror the County's strategic plan. The setting of use fees to be discussed at this meeting are to be an integral part.

## Agenda Item #2: Stadium Use Fees.

Chairman Hunt opened the discussion with a reminder to the SA of the essence of the earlier comments by guests at the SA's work session held on February 22, 2012, with reference to the use and fee structure for the Stadium and the several witnesses who appeared, to wit: Mr. Al Davis, President of NCUSA Track and Field, Mr. John Lantzy of Durham Academy, Mr. Allan Rigsbee of Northern High School (Athletic Director), Mr. Jeff Hill, Northern High School Boosters Club, Mr. Michael Strand, Triangle United Soccer; Mr. Doug Shank, Mr. Clarence Mitchell, and Mr. Jim Key and Mr. Larry McDonald, the latter two representing the Durham Public School system ("DPS").

Chairman Hunt expressed the appreciation of the SA for the participation of this group who engaged in a full and frank discussion of the task set for the SA, to finalize a plan for the maximum utilization of the Stadium facilities, and a uniform and fair fee to charge for such use. Chairman Hunt cautioned that the SA might not be able to resolve these issues imminently but would continue to work toward the completion of the undertaking.

Chairman Hunt summarized the conclusions reached by the several speakers at the February 22, 2012 work session as follows: 1) That the venue was exceptionally well adapted for use for football, soccer, lacrosse and track/field; 2) That the current fee structure was too high, particularly for activities which did not attract large fan support; 3) That DPS activities should either pay nothing or the lowest possible break-even charges; 4) That the proposed fee should include all costs, such as security, attendants and other necessary services; 5) That more extensive use of the Stadium would attract other outside groups for use of the Stadium and its concession facilities to enhance the

economy of the entire Durham community; 6) That sponsors (a civic sports authority, Durham Convention Center, etc.) should be encouraged.

Chairman Hunt invited members of the Authority and Ms. Karriker to comment. Frank Davis expressed the possibility of attracting the NCUSA Track and Field three-day event for this Spring to be held at the Stadium. Mr. Davis recognized that the costs to the SA for hosting such an event were very real and must be compensated for. He suggested a set fee of \$1,000.00 per day (except security), to include all other services, but noted that the group would have to be advised quite soon in order to make plans. Mr. Davis assured the SA that he was giving his services pro bono to the group and that he had no financial interest whatsoever in the NCUSA Track and Field group.

Other members of the Authority spoke, to include Mr. Moushon and the undersigned, to the effect that initially we should strive for at least a break-even fee schedule to attract wider and long-term use of the Stadium facilities. Ms. Karriker spoke on behalf of the Durham County Board of Commissioners that in these economic times the County was in dire straits for income, but that she felt the Commissioners would support a reasonable fee schedule. Ms. Karriker also stated that efforts should be made to establish an active sports authority to provide financial support to the Stadium and other sport activities in Durham County. She stated that she felt the Durham Convention Center should be involved also, as well as local corporate sponsors.

Mr. Rigsbee and Mr. Lehman spoke on behalf of their school's use of the Stadium without charge.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously adopted that a flat fee of \$1,000 per day be established for Stadium use by non-profit organizations, excluding security. This action would accommodate the needs of the NCUSA Track and Field group for the Spring 2012 three-day track event, and hopefully attract same.

<u>A second motion was made, seconded and approved</u> to attract a Spring meeting of the so-called "PAC-6 track meet," at no charge under a sponsorship by Durham County and the SA. After the adoption of this motion, County Attorney Carol Hammett stated that since the PAC-6 group involved counties other than Durham County, to wit: Orange County and Person County, this action may not be permitted since this was not an entity which would be entitled to free use.

On motion duly seconded and adopted, the action as to the "Pac-6" track meet above was rescinded.

The Director offered a copy of the proposed budget for 2012-2013 for Durham County to be inserted into the minutes for information purposes.

There being no further discussion on the agenda items, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

James T. Hedrick, Secretary

Durham County Stadium Authority

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