



Durham County Memorial Stadium Authority Minutes 200 E Main Commissioner's Conference Room

Date: November 5, 2019

Time: Noon

In Attendance

Pam Karriker, Chair; Dan Moushon, Vice-chair; Commissioner Ellen Reckhow, Ed Bryson, Secretary; Frank Davis, Billy Ruffin, Tyrone Wilson

Also, in attendance: Zach Pritchard, County Stadium Manager; and Shawn P Swiatocha, Asst Director of General Services

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 6th, 2019 meeting were approved. Commissioner Reckhow made the motion to approve, seconded by Dan Moushon. The motion was unanimously approved with the correction of the location of the meeting, which was held at the stadium, not the Commissioners' Conference Room.

Discussion of Future Stadium Growth and Development Plan For Stadium Complex

It was discussed that Durham County is continuing to look into the long-term vision both financially and operationally for Durham County Memorial Stadium and Stadium Complex. As part of the ongoing discussions about the overall stadium property it has been requested by the General Services and Engineering Departments that there is a need to identify key items for site improvements while looking ahead for Capital Improvements and general budget projects. Zach Pritchard brought to the attention of the Authority that in order to be able to pursue larger events at the Stadium the Authority probably is going to have to provide better facilities. This led to a discussion into looking at the costs of providing these facilities and the benefit to the County. In other words, a cost/benefit analysis. What would better facilities buy the County in the "marketplace"?

Mr. Pritchard provided the Authority with a long list of potential Stadium site upgrades. It was brought to the Authority's attention that the Durham Sports Commission lost approximately \$400,000 recently when the USATF Youth Outdoor National Championship Meet was held at the Stadium in June, 2019. Thus, before taking any action in moving forward in providing better facilities that a meeting with the Durham Sports Commission and the Authority would be in order.

There was quite a bit of discussion among the Authority members regarding the need to look at the "atmosphere" of the Stadium, the terms for describing the Stadium as "sterile looking" or "drab". There was discussion regarding possibly placing advertisements around the Stadium and painting the bleachers a different color might inject life into the Stadium. "Color might generate excitement at the Stadium".



Mr. Pritchard brought to the Authority's attention that the air conditioner in the press box on the west side had been replaced. Chairs had also been replaced. He pointed out the heating system in locker rooms and bathrooms were not functioning properly, that space heaters had to be brought in but these areas were being corrected. It was further brought to the attention of the Authority that the cleaning contractor was not doing a good job.

The Authority was also informed the water drainage problem will be corrected before the year 2019 is out.

In summary, regarding the discussion of what was needed from the standpoint of providing better facilities to attract events to the Stadium, it should be decided what improvements in the short term were needed and the costs of the improvements.

Stadium Renovation Project Update

The Stadium has a project out to bid to repair/replace the cinder block wall on the "home side" walls and vomitories. The reason this was on the agenda was that Mr. Pritchard want the Authority to be aware of the project. Apparently water was getting down into the cinder blocks and "capping" of the blocks was necessary. In addition, the paint on the steel work needed stripping and repainting. The Stadium has advertised these projects and contractors should submit their bids by November 21, 2019 with the understanding that the capping of the blocks be completed in 100 days and the stripping and painting in 30 days.

Waiver of Merchandise Fee for Potential USCAA Track and Field International

The Durham Sports Commission and the Durham Memorial Stadium are putting in a bid for the USCAA Track and Field International for its 2020 and 2021 track meet dates. As part of their bid that has been presented to the Stadium by the Durham Sports Commission, it requires that all meet merchandise fees are retained by the event. Based on the current rat, the vendor fee would be \$50. After discussion on the issue a motion was made by Commissioner Reckhow to waive in the case the "vendor fee". The motion was seconded by Dan Moushon and was passed.

Recap of USAFT Youth National Event

Mr. Pritchard made the Authority aware that the USATF Youth National Event held at the Stadium in June 2019, from the standpoint of attendance and profitability was not successful. The attendance was lower than the attendance announced to the public and that in retrospect the Durham Sports Commission should have known if there was only one bid for the event, the event would not be profitable to the County. As indicated previously, it was reported that the Durham Sports Commission lost approximately \$400,000. Thus, it was discussed that there needs to be some accountability so this could not be repeated. It was suggested that a meeting should be scheduled between the Authority and the Durham Sports Commission to discuss this matter.



A motion was made by Commissioner Reckhow and seconded by Dan Moushon at 1:45pm to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed.

Submitted by Ed Bryson,

Secretary – Durham County Memorial Stadium Authority