



Durham County Memorial Stadium Authority Minutes

Date: November 12, 2024

Time: Noon

Location: Virtual

In Attendance: Charles Epps, Chair; E'Vonne Coleman, Vice Chair; Jonathan Leach, Secretary; Ed Bryson; Derrick Magee

Also in attendance: Evan Kramer, Acting County Stadium Manager; Chrystal Thomas, Deputy Director General Services; Nathan McKinney, County Attorney; Motiryo Keambiroiro, Director of General Services.

Absent: Commissioner Burns;

Chair Epps called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 2024 meeting, upon motion of Ed Bryson and Second by Charles Epps to approve, the minutes were unanimously approved by the Authority.

The minutes from the October 2024 special meeting, upon motion of Ed Bryson and Second by Charles Epps to approve, the minutes were unanimously approved by the Authority.

Long-Term Vision and Goals Brainstorming Session

The Board Authority discussed the long-term vision and outlook of the stadium. Chair Epps discussed the possibility of getting additional temporary or part-time staff or volunteers at the stadium to assist the Stadium Manager and Coordinator with event coverage and to prevent burnout. Vice Chair Coleman expressed interest in discussing long-term, large-scale projects that have been proposed around Durham, as well as best practices to make the stadium more profitable. Chair Epps also discussed strategies to continue attracting event to the stadium, including sports camps, track events, and other large-scale events that allow full utilization of the stadium. There was discussion about the potential for a field house or auxiliary building for additional locker/office/meeting spaces being built somewhere on the stadium grounds, and the Acting Manager said he would connect with the stadium's architect to see the viability of these types of structures.

Stadium Manager's Update

Staffing Update

Mr. Kramer reminded the board that he is currently serving as the Acting Stadium Manager while the search for the permanent stadium manager is ongoing.

Mr. Ray Ellis has also returned in an auxiliary event support role to assist Mr. Kramer with event coverage while the search for the new Manager is ongoing.

Facility Updates

Mr. Kramer noted that the stadium is currently working on two RFP Projects- one to retrofit the stadium lights with LEDs and one to replace the stadium bleachers. Mr. Kramer hoped the work would be completed sometime in 2025.

Concessions in the stadium is also up for renewal for fiscal year 25-26.

Event Updates

Mr. Kramer discussed the fall season and talked about the remaining scheduled events for the calendar year, as well as some events scheduled for the winter and spring.

General Services Update

County Updates

Deputy Director Thomas discussed the change in leadership within Durham County with the appointment of County Manager Claudia Hager, and discussed the new Board of County Commissioners, which has three new members.

Budget Updates

Deputy Director Thomas informed the board that the budget process for FY26 has begun, and shared revenue and operating expenses numbers for FY25 with the board. Director Keambiroiro added that in many budget lines, General Services will be doing general-based budgeting, requiring justification for expenses at the stadium and working from the ground up.

Authority Chair/Board Member Comments

The Authority did not have any additional general comments.

Executive Session- Closed Meeting

The Meeting was moved into a closed session to discuss the timeline and availability of Authority Board Member's participation in the Stadium Manager Hiring Process.

Motion was made to end the closed session by Ed Bryson and seconded by Vice Chair Coleman.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ed Bryson and seconded by Vice Chair Coleman at 1:06 PM.