



Durham County Memorial Stadium Authority Minutes

Date: August 6, 2024

Time: Noon

Location: In-Person

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

Also, in attendance: Zach Pritchard, County Stadium Manager; Chrystal Thomas, Deputy Director General Services; Nathan McKinney, County Attorney; Evan Kramer, Stadium Event Coordinator

Absent: Commissioner Burns; Teah Rawlings

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

Approval of Minutes

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

Fee Waiver Request – Durham County Employee Appreciation Event

Durham County Human Resources is requesting a fee waiver for the rental of the Stadium's parking lot for their Employee Appreciation Drive-In Movie event, tentatively scheduled for October 18, 2024. The event is expected to host approximately 100-150 Durham County employees and their families.

As part of the rental agreement, Durham County Human Resources will use the Stadium's Home Concourse Restrooms and will be responsible for covering all costs related to their cleaning.

Upon motion of Ed Bryson and Second by Jonathan Leach it was approved unanimously to waive the rental fee for use of the parking lot for Durham County Human Resources. Durham County Human Resources would be responsible for the fees related to the cleaning of the stadium restrooms as part of this use.

Stadium Manager's Update

Recap of FY2023-2024

The Stadium Manager provided a recap of the end of the FY2023-2024 fiscal year for Durham County Memorial Stadium.

Key highlights included:

- The stadium was in use for 163 days this fiscal year.
- Generated \$161,881 from facility rental fees, \$11,894 in parking lot rental fees, and \$14,957 in concessions revenue.
- Total revenues amounted to \$208,087, exceeding budget projections by over 14%.

Expenses for FY2024 totaled \$322,046, resulting in a subsidy of \$132,615 from the county budget. Mr. Pritchard noted that venues like Durham County Stadium often operate at a loss to benefit the community, referencing similar facilities like convention centers. Economic impact data from the Durham Sports Commission indicated that the stadium contributed approximately \$4.28 million to the greater Durham community for a small sample size of Stadium events.

Mr. Pritchard emphasized ongoing growth opportunities but noted a diminishing inventory of preferred event dates. He discussed potential avenues for additional revenue, including increased spectator attendance and exploring partnership opportunities. However, resource constraints remain a challenge, as staffing levels and the operational budget do not align with the venue's needs for expansion.



Vice Chair Coleman recommended that upcoming Stadium Authority meetings focus on long-term planning and goal setting. The group discussed the potential benefit of adding an intern to the stadium staff, and General Services will check with Durham County Human Resources regarding the qualifications for this position.

Facility Updates

Mr. Pritchard announced that Durham County Memorial Stadium has been selected as the host site for the 2025-2027 CIAA Football Conference Championships, marking a continued partnership with the Durham Sports Commission.

He also mentioned that the county is still awaiting the financial processes to initiate capital improvement projects for the game lighting system and bleacher plank replacement, with Deputy Director Thomas noting that funds should be available by September or October.

The stadium aims to enhance its social media efforts to increase visibility for events, targeting approximately 100 posts across Twitter and Facebook, including a weekly schedule and highlights of stadium operations.

An update on the stadium's schedule through the end of the calendar year was also provided.

General Services Update

Deputy Director Thomas discussed the Durham County budget for FY2025, noting a 10% reduction to the stadium's budget, equating to a decrease of \$21,442 compared to FY2024. The 10% budget reductions applied to all county departments by the Durham County Finance Office.

The stadium projects total revenue of \$168,900 for rentals and usage in FY2025. A discussion followed regarding the implications of these budget reductions, with Mr. Pritchard highlighting concerns that further cuts could limit the stadium's availability for rentals and impact operations for event organizers.

Authority Chair/Board Member Comments

The Authority expressed interest in holding a future brainstorming session to develop a long-term vision for the facility, addressing topics such as capital improvement projects, staffing, and budgetary constraints.

Stadium Authority Elections

Tyrone Wilson, former Authority Chair's, term expired in May of 2024 and created an opening for a new chair position.

Chair

Jonathan Leach nominated Charles Epps for the Chair position.

Charles Epps was the only member nominated for the position and was voted unanimously to become the Stadium Authority Chair.

Secretary

With the election of Charles Epps to chair of the Stadium Authority a vacancy of the Secretary position was created.

Ed Bryson nominated Jonathan Leach for the Secretary Position

Jonathan Leach was the only member nominated for the position and was voted unanimously to become Stadium Authority Secretary.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jonathan Leach and seconded by E'Vonne Coleman at 12:50 PM