

First Energy Stadium Commission

James Schlegel - Chairman
Gary Yeager, Jr. - Vice Chairman/Secretary
Rick Denunzio - Member
Rick Mountz - Member
Michael Schorn - Member
Carlos Torres - DPW Liaison
Donna Reed - City Council Liaison
Strat Marmarou - Commissioner Emeritus

To: Members of City Council
Re: 2025 Stadium Commission Annual Report
From: James Schlegel, Chairperson
Date: January 31, 2026

As Chairman of the Stadium Commission, it is with pleasure that I submit the following annual report.

Over the course of 2025, the Stadium Commission met six times, in accordance with procedures. The Commission is composed of five voting members: James Schlegel – Chairman, Gary Yeager, Jr. – Vice Chairman/Secretary and members, Rick Denunzio, Rick Mountz and Michael Schorn. Non-voting members include Donna Reed, Liaison from City Council and Carlos Torres, Liaison from DPW. Strat Marmarou serves as Commissioner Emeritus. Throughout the year, members of the Commission completed more than 296 hours of volunteer work at the stadium. This included attendance at games, interacting with fans, and attending community events. This was in addition to our regular meeting schedule.

In January, Scott Hunsicker, Fightin Phils General Manager presented a request for the Annual Appropriation of \$5,000 from the city for improvements to First Energy Stadium. The work included replacing worn out wood on the deck area to prevent trip and fall hazards. Wood decking at the steps was also replaced, loose boards were fastened down, hand rails repaired and a gate repaired. The work was completed by CAM Remodeling & Construction. The Commission authorized the proposal and upon receipt of invoices, the payment was authorized.

At the beginning of 2025, finishing touches were still being competed on the Redner's Event Center. Additionally, rubber flooring in the dugouts and padding on all the fencing around the field needed to be added which was mandated by MLB. With the completion of the event center the total full-time staff for the franchise increased from 24 to 31 employees. In December of 2024 an electric pole was hit on Front Street by a driver causing major damage to the pole, the lines remained attached. It was discovered that the pole was on city property and that it was the city's responsibility for repair, this agreement was made many years ago. In March, the pole was finally repaired and the cost was billed to the insurance company of the responsible driver.

In August, the Stadium Commission was advised by General Manager, Scott Hunsicker of the sale of the franchise to Diamond Baseball Holdings. This was somewhat of a shock as Mr. Craig Stein has been the sole owner for 34 years. Scott met with the commission covering many of the details of how this will affect the franchise and the City of Reading. He shared that it was a positive move and that the Fightin

Phils organization will remain as is. No staff changes were expected. It is noted that Diamond Baseball Holdings purchased the interest within Reading Baseball LLP, not the assets. The Reading Fightin Phils kept their Federal Tax ID number and are simply known as DBH Reading Baseball LLP. On August 25, 2025 City Council voted to acquire the property, known as the old Citizens Bank building, by eminent domain. The vote passed and the process to finalize the purchase is still underway.

As we continue to review the past year the Stadium Commission recognized a former member of the commission, Ducky Turner. Mr. Turner dedicated 55 years of working and volunteering in different roles at the ballpark. Shortly after his 90th birthday the Stadium Commission officially recognized Ducky at a home game with a proclamation from the city. The official attendance for the 2025 season was 396,201. In the coming year the commission is looking forward to celebrating the 60th anniversary as a Philadelphia Phillies affiliate, the longest such relationship in all professional sports.

The Stadium Commission remains committed to our purpose and mission and look forward to following this tradition into 2026. We are committed to working on behalf of the City of Reading and its citizens to ensure that our stadium remains a vital part of our city. It is with great pride that we continue the tradition of being America's Classic Ballpark and forever being known as Baseballtown.