

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: 2023 Stadium Commission Annual Report
From: James Schlegel, Chairperson, 2023
Date: January 31, 2024

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

Over the course of 2023, 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 (term expired August 2023), 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 300 hours of volunteer work at the stadium. This included attendance at games, interacting with fans, and attending community events such as Senior Expo and Berks Fest. 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 replacement of wood decking in the left field area and the pool area. The Commission authorized the proposal and upon receipt of invoices, the payment was authorized.

Construction on the new facility continued in full swing thanks to the mild winter weather. All funding was secured, while a deferment was requested due to supply chain issues. This was approved to extend the completion date. Some upgrades were finalized by Opening Day in April, most noticeably the new LED lighting. Adding immediate eco-friendly, consistent, and longer lasting benefits, the aesthetics captivate fans with dynamic effects of colors, movement, and a plethora of other visual options.

On April 4, 2023, a ceremony took place at the stadium announcing the partnership and naming rights of the new events space. Representatives from Redner's Markets, City of Reading, and other distinguished guests attended the unveiling of The Redner's Event Center. An international outreach involved delegates from our Sister Cities in England and Germany. They were hosted by Donna Reed, City Council President and Stadium Commission Liaison who provided them with a tour of our facility. This was in recognition of Reading's 275th anniversary. On August 18, 2023, the Stadium Commission recognized Frank Denbowski following his passing. Frank was a former Liaison to the commission and a true public servant to the City of Reading throughout his life. Recognition was shared with his family who were in attendance. The Stadium Commission also provided a memorial brick that was placed in the Hall of Fame Courtyard in the front of the stadium to honor Frank's unwavering dedication.

Obviously, the Stadium Commission remains committed and intimately involved with our purpose. We are patiently awaiting the completion of The Redner's Event Center as the perfect backdrop to another exciting championship season. We look forward to our continued work on behalf of the City of Reading and our citizens to ensure that our stadium remains a vital part of our city. It is with pride that we continue the tradition of being America's Classic Ballpark and forever being known as Baseballtown.