

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

Stadium Commission Meeting

Date: January 29, 2025
Location: First Energy Stadium, RBI Room
Present: James Schlegel, Gary Yeager, Jr., Michael Schorn, Rick Denunzio, Rick Mountz, Donna Reed, & Strat Marmarou
Absent: Carlos Torres
Guest: Scott Hunsicker - General Manager, Reading Fightin Phils

Order of Business

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman James Schlegel.

II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the November 20, 2024 meeting were presented and a motion was made by Mike Schorn to approve without change and seconded by Rick Denunzio; the motion passed. The minutes will be forwarded to the City Clerk.

III. Old Business

- Scott presented copies of the letter for appropriation of \$5,000 which is an annual contribution from the Stadium Commission for capital repairs at First Energy Stadium. This year's request is to replace trip and fall hazards (worn wood) out in left field deck area. Since the pool area was upgraded to Trex (a composite decking material), this is the ONLY wooden area left in the stadium.
- The Redner's Event Center renovation project is nearing the end of completion. The main building simply has last-minute touches with benches to be installed and artwork to be hung.
- Other items on the checklist included: rubber flooring in the dugouts and padding on the fences (both of which are weather-dependent, but will be done before Opening Day), as well as dedicating a 24-Hour Security Office; which is mandated by MLB.
- Events hosted thus far have ranged from meetings to conventions/tradeshows and tomorrow will be the backdrop for Mayor Eddie Moran's "State of The City" address.
- According to plan, the number of full-time personnel has increased from 24 to 31 because of the opportunities presented.

III. Old Business (continued)

- Scott expressed his sincere gratitude once again for the cooperation of The City of Reading and CIP planning for Kyle & Carlos to replace the rest of the rubber expansion joints (one done thus far and eventually will be replaced one at a time). They continue to meet and strategize to stay ahead of these structural concerns.
- An ongoing dialogue regarding the \$5,000 ordinance amount that has been unchanged since 2000 was tabled once again. Avoiding public misperception was deemed critical because DPW continues to provide all other improvements along with the timing of the \$4.5 million already received. In the future, the scope of operating budgets (comparing 2000 to 2025) and the increased costs of materials/labor/etc. for any repair will be the reality necessary to address specific needs (i.e. left field bathroom improvements, bank of flags, etc.).

IV. New Business

- Rick Mountz asked for sincere consideration to be given for a new “bank of flags” on the renovated side of the stadium. This would aesthetically represent the appreciation for those who made it all possible. The idea of including our Pennsylvania State flag, our Berks County flag, and our City of Reading flag could bolster the current footprint or make for a monumental focus.
- Jim read procedures as outlined that the Election of Officers would be the last item on January’s meeting agenda before adjournment:
 - Nomination for Jim Schlegel as Chairman was accepted. Rick Denunzio made a motion for the appointment and it was seconded by Rick Mountz; the motion passed.
 - Mike Schorn presented rationale to split the responsibilities of Vice Chairman & Secretary for instances when the Chairman would be absent. Rick Denunzio thanked him for this potential nomination, commented on the reality of the roles, then kindly rescinded.
 - Nomination for Gary Yeager, Jr. as Vice Chairman/Secretary was accepted. Rick Denunzio made a motion for the appointment and it was seconded by Mike Schorn; the motion passed.

A motion was made to adjourn by Rick Mountz, seconded by Rick Denunzio, and the meeting concluded at 7:42 p.m. The next meeting of The Commission is scheduled for February 26, 2025.