

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 31, 2024
Location: First Energy Stadium, RBI Room
Present: James Schlegel, Gary Yeager, Jr., Rick Denunzio, Michael Schorn, Carlos Torres, Donna Reed, and Strat Marmarou
Absent: Rick Mountz
Guest: Scott Hunsicker - General Manager, Reading Fightin Phils

Order of Business

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman James Schlegel.

II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the November 29, 2023 meeting were presented and a motion was made by Rick Denunzio to approve without change and seconded by Michael Schorn; the motion passed. The minutes will be forwarded to the City Clerk.

III. Old Business

- Scott Hunsicker, Fightin Phils' GM advised of three (3) issues that need immediate attention:
 - (1) Two (2) hot water heaters didn't pass state inspection; therefore, both will be removed and replaced.
 - (2) Rubber expansion joints originally installed way back in the 1950s deteriorated in a few critical areas. Matt Hoffmaster, Fightin Phils' Asst. GM and Carlos Torres, DPW Liaison are requesting quotes for this necessary work.
 - (3) Tree roots are forcing sidewalk cracks around the stadium; however, two (2) major areas of concern are being addressed by the arborist.

III. Old Business (continued)

- Scott handed out a thick packet of the stadium renovation renderings for all in attendance to visualize construction completed, phases nearing completion, but most importantly varying scenarios that will be available inside the Redner's Event Center. He led the group by thumbing through offering updates and highlights per page. Comparisons were outlined when used for gameday outings, weddings, expos & tradeshows, corporate & social events. Again, the potential seems limitless when considering every day of the year could be an event date?!?!)
- Chairman Schlegel interjected that a YouTube video was released earlier today to the public (<https://youtu.be/aTzPLldV4Gg?si=gopyDP65rGeH1tPX>) and shared via email by Scott. He then forwarded to The Commission noting that it was jam packed with information on these exciting updates both inside and outside the new facility.
- Scott elaborated upon capacity fluctuations that will be dependent upon number of tables for a seated dinner with the inclusion of a dance floor or a stage versus a tradeshow or cocktail party with minimal tables/chairs required. He also pointed out the adjoining rooms can serve as a green room, bridal suite, or holding room for VIP/feature guest speakers prior to introduction. Multiple drop-down partitions will also allow smaller groups to share an event date.
- Regardless of the weather, the versatility ranges from an open-air space with 180-degree swing doors leading to the veranda overlooking the outfield or closed for a climate-controlled environment with a similar view through the floor-to-ceiling glass doors.
- The aforementioned YouTube video lists the 3rd party catering partners currently available. Scott happily announced there are options for **ANY** taste or budget. Sheila Contento, Executive Director for the Redner's Event Center, and her staff are available to discuss booking your event. Simply visit www.rphils.com/events [<https://www.milb.com/reading/ballpark/redners-event-center>] for pricing, info, etc.
- He also shared an example of a Birthday or Graduation party where a family desires to bring their own food or own caterer. This will be a viable option; HOWEVER, an additional fee will be charged for a member of The Fightins staff to be present assisting with instructions on rules & procedures, management & use of reserved space, and proper clean-up.
- Tentatively speaking, 6/1/24 will be the 1st event hosting the Reading School District Alumni Reunion.
- An important deadline is to ensure that our temporary occupancy permit is received by 3/11/24 so that we can receive the 2024 Fightins squad after spring training without issue on 3/30/24.
- We are IN COMPLIANCE with MLB's PDL Agreement and points, etc. and we did receive a waiver from MLB through 2024 season. By the end of this season, we should be in FULL COMPLIANCE!
- The new visitor's locker room and new female locker room are slated for completion by August. In the interim, our opponents will use our former Fightins home locker room. A hard date for all loose ends is 9/1/24.
- Pinpointing an exact date for the ribbon cutting ceremony is tough, yet we would love for all to fall into place to pick some time the week before Opening Day (4/9/24). Scott lamented that even if we cannot do it on the 8th or 9th, it will simply occur at a later date when it works for all.
- Chairman Schlegel educated The Commission on the proper ending of a member's term. Linda Kelleher advised that one remains as a voting member until he/she resigns, or he/she is replaced. The Nomination Committee is meeting on Monday, 2/5/24 regarding the reinstatement of Rick Mountz.
- Jim then shared each member's 5-year term expiration dates. Linda will help us stay on top of this in the future regarding reinstatements, etc.

IV. New Business

- Scott handed Jim the letter for appropriation of \$5,000 which is an annual contribution from the Stadium Commission for capital repairs at First Energy Stadium. The request is to replace worn deck wood in the left field and pool areas. A motion was made by Michael Schorn to authorize the work to be done and to be paid once invoices have been received by the Commission and seconded by Gary Yeager, Jr.; the motion passed. Scott Hunsicker will proceed with the work.
- Jim reiterated the motion passed at the last meeting to create a simple resolution eliminating officers' term limits. Vice Chairman/Secretary Gary Yeager, Jr. emailed Linda Kelleher our First Energy Stadium Commission Procedural Rules Revision 11.29.23 .pdf for City Council's records and to update our webpage.
- Consistent with every January meeting, nominations were accepted for officers to serve in 2024. Michael Schorn made a motion for Jim Schlegel as Chairman and seconded by Rick Denunzio; the motion passed. Michael Schorn made a motion for Gary Yeager, Jr. as Vice Chairman/Secretary and seconded by Rick Denunzio; the motion passed.
- Lastly, since no comments or changes were suggested for the Annual Report 2023, Jim will forward it to City Council.

**A motion was made to adjourn by Gary Yeager, Jr., seconded by Michael Schorn,
and the meeting concluded at 8:09 p.m.**

The next meeting of The Commission is scheduled for March 27, 2024.