

First Energy Stadium Commission

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

Stadium Commission Meeting

Date: May 31, 2023
Location: First Energy Stadium, RBI Room
Present: James Schlegel, Gary Yeager, Jr., Rick Denunzio, Donna Reed, & Carlos Torres
Absent: Rick Mountz, Michael Schorn, & Strat Marmarou
Guest: N/A

Order of Business

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman James Schlegel.

II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the March 22, 2023 meeting were presented and a motion was made by Rick Denunzio to approve without change and seconded by Gary Yeager, Jr.; the motion passed. The minutes will be forwarded to the City Clerk.

III. Old Business

- Chairman Schlegel shared a recap of the CIP (Capital Improvement Project) discussion subsequent to our last meeting. The Stadium Commission was seeking review of the “unchanged” appropriation of \$5,000 annually for capital repairs at First Energy Stadium. Despite all costs associated (i.e. time, material, labor) exponentially increasing over the past two decades, this allocation has remained. The decision to table this pursuit was unanimous to revisit in the future after the event center facility and all other stadium upgrades are complete.
- Per Scott Hunsicker, all construction improvements remain on schedule and no supply chain issues were reported.
- More general inquiries were brought forward regarding the bank building. No updates nor movement has been made available.

III. Old Business (continued)

- The paperwork and receipt were filed for the memorial brick honoring the legacy of Frank Denbowski. Monies collected amongst The Commission paid for this brick (\$125). Furthermore, all additional monies (\$50) were donated directly to Baseballtown Charities in memory of Frank.
- Gary Yeager, Jr. read an email response from Chris Daubert (Council District 1) that was received (3/23/23) immediately upon sharing our approved minutes from the January meeting. Chris commended The Commission for this gesture on behalf of “no one more deserving” and “a true champion of the city”. Reciprocal appreciation was acknowledged by all for Chris taking the time to communicate that Frank’s legacy will live on.

IV. New Business

- Asst. GM Matt Hoffmaster advised Jim that the memorial brick that The Commission purchased for Frank was placed in the Hall of Fame Courtyard in front of First Energy Stadium.
- Several ideas were proposed on the “best” manner to present Rachel Denbowski and family with a public thank you. Frank’s birthday (June 10th) does include a home game; however, the logistics and timing need to come together quickly. Upcoming schedules were shared so the follow-through on behalf of The Commission will include representation from within.
- All agreed that the eventual date is NOT as critical as the execution of a well-planned celebration mirroring Frank’s innate ability to get things done his entire career!

V. Miscellaneous

- A general discussion closed our meeting with highlights of this past Memorial Day Weekend in Baseballtown. All in attendance experienced nice weather and even better performances all weekend long. The final score is NOT everything, but when Mother Nature and our Fightins’ fans showcase support, everyone walks away a winner!!

**A motion was made to adjourn by Gary Yeager, Jr., seconded by Rick Denunzio,
and the meeting concluded at 7:27 p.m.**

The next meeting of The Commission is scheduled for September 27, 2023.