

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: November 20, 2024
Location: First Energy Stadium, RBI Room
Present: James Schlegel, Gary Yeager, Jr., Michael Schorn, Rick Denunzio,
Carlos Torres, & Donna Reed
Absent: Rick Mountz & Strat Marmarou
Guest: N/A

Order of Business

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the October 30, 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

- Chairman Schlegel again asked for volunteer hours; furthermore, he will double-check with members NOT in attendance to finalize our total as a group for 2024.
- Copies of Ordinance 153-05 POWERS AND DUTIES; updated to Ordinance 23-406 and signed by former Reading Mayor Joseph D. Eppihimer on 2/29/00 were handed out for review and discussion. As it was written, a "MINIMUM" of \$5,000 per year had been declared. Moving forward, The Commission could change our procedure to put in a larger request based upon all financial data, current costs, etc.
- Donna Reed reminded the group that budgets remain fluid with transfers and presentations; therefore, good timing would be to present such requests to City Council by July.
- Carlos Torres, DPW Liaison elaborated on stadium upkeep and repairs from April through November 2024 totaling more than 300 man hours. Our city plumber winterizes the entire stadium in two phases (incl. hourly rate, some parts, & coolants). Our city electrician handles everything except for the field lighting. Our city mason ensures the integrity of structural property is fit. Our city carpenter is a complete handyman even locksmithing doors when necessary.

III. Old Business (continued)

- Sharing some analytical perspective, Carlos highlighted the insurance report from 2023 which led to three (3) big ticket items mandated for repair that carried forward into 2024. Two (2) boilers were NOT in compliance and rubber expansion joints (originally installed way back in the 1950s) deteriorated in a few critical areas around the stadium. Several invoices paid by The City of Reading under the capital budget for repairs and improvements at First Energy Stadium were read:
 - (1) March 7, 2023 = right before the start of the 2023 season, a new boiler was installed in clubhouse (\$25K+)
 - (2) March 3, 2024 = right before the start of the 2024 season, the other boiler was installed (\$25K+) and a mixing valve to boot \$6K)
 - (3) Despite a total of five (5) joists needing replacement, the worst one was completed (\$18,500)
- Carlos advised that the other rubber expansion joints will be replaced and the expense to remove one of the old boilers (\$3,500+) will be incurred in the future. Since the area of this non-functioning boiler is simply utilized as storage space, this removal is not urgent.
- Lastly, Carlos Torres advised the \$5,000 check for the annual appropriation of funds was sent over to The Fightins for this year's reimbursement to replace worn deck wood in the left field and pool areas.

IV. New Business

- Meeting dates were set for 2025:
 - #1 = 1/29/25
 - #2 = 2/26/25
 - #3 = 3/26/25
 - #4 = 9/24/25
 - #5 = 10/29/25
 - #6 = 11/19/25
- A motion was made by Gary Yeager, Jr. to accept the aforementioned meeting dates for the upcoming calendar year and was seconded by Mike Schorn; the motion passed.
- Jim asked Gary to send Linda Kelleher a quick note regarding these dates since she just asked all City boards recently. She will share with Reading Eagle Advertising Department who will in turn run the annual meeting notices in the paper. The public will also be reminded that our time and place is UNCHANGED = RBI Room @ 7 p.m.
- The election of officers will occur at our January meeting. Any interested members can come forward and all nominations will be accepted and voted upon accordingly. Any newly appointed position will assume their new responsibilities in February 2025.

A motion was made to adjourn by Rick Denunzio, seconded by Michael Schorn, and the meeting concluded at 7:42 p.m. The next meeting of The Commission is scheduled for January 29, 2025.