



Minnesota Ballpark Authority Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2009

Chair Steve Cramer called the meeting of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority for July 17, 2009 to order at 12:30 p.m. The meeting took place at the Duluth Holiday Inn as part of the 2009 MBA Greater Minnesota Tour. The roll was taken. All Commissioners were present. Kathleen Lamb, Legal Counsel, was also present.

Commissioner John Wade moved approval of the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Mike Vekich and approved unanimously – 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS.

APPROVED

Commissioner Joan Campbell moved approval of the June 19, 2009 meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Wade and approved unanimously – 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS.

APPROVED

Chair Cramer recognized State Representatives Roger Reinert and Mary Murphy and thanked them for attending the meeting.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Steve Cramer reported the following:

- Chair Cramer gave an overview of the role of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority and the status of the Ballpark project.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Dan Kenney reported the following:

- Executive Director Kenney gave a presentation on the features of the new ballpark and MBA initiatives.
- MBA staff continues to meet with the City of Minneapolis and representatives from the Minnesota Twins on the Transportation Management Plan to develop plans for pedestrian and traffic movement around the ballpark. The TMP is in its final draft and the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department has committed to lead the event management committee.
- Discussions continue on exterior signage and way-finding improvements beyond the ballpark footprint. Project Partners are working to finalize scopes on district

improvements outside the ballpark. Work continues on finalizing scope around 7th Street by HERC. MBA staff is also working with Hennepin County on 3rd Avenue now that there is grant money involved.

Commissioner Campbell discussed improved amenities for disabled fans at the new ballpark. Target Field will have 820 disabled seats as compared to the Metrodome's 190 seats. LEED Certification of Target Field is being pursued. Qualifications for LEED Certification include using a sustainable design, construction and operation practices.

John Wade reported on the Minnesota Twins Ballpark Community Participation Program. Business and Workforce participation goals have been met and exceeded for the project.

Commissioner Sykora gave an overview of the District Enhancement and Public Art Incentive Fund and the Public Art projects underway at the Vertical Circulation Building and the 5th Street Panels.

Commissioner Vekich gave an overview on the Project Construction Budget and on public funding and the Twins commitments to the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Question: *Is there going to be an increase in the price of tickets for the new ballpark?*
Chair Cramer stated there is a provision for affordable tickets. Mr. Kenney said the Twins have announced their 2010 season ticket prices and there is a wide range of price points. The most expensive seats behind home plate range from \$125 to \$300. For season tickets more than half of the 40,000 seats will be \$30 or less. Mr. Kenney encouraged the audience to view the Twins website in the coming months for ticket prices. The Twins have pledged to continue their tradition of keeping ticket prices affordable for families.
- Question: *The local Wade stadium has a netting to protect fans from stray foul balls. Will the new Twins Stadium also have the same protection?*
Mr. Kenney stated that Target Field will also have the netting to protect fans from stray foul balls.
- Question: *What is the deadline for purchasing space on the Twins Tradition Wall?*
Mr. Kenney responded that about 70% of the space on the Tradition Wall has been sold and people will be able to purchase space until it is full.
- Question: *Will the 800 disabled seats have companion seats?*
Ed Hunter said that at every level, whether it's around the main concourse, upper club, or terrace levels there will be Accessible seating. Companion seating will be available.
- Question: *Please explain the recent program for amateur sports and children's teams.*
Mr. Kenney stated that as part of the 2006 Ballpark Legislation, Hennepin County was given the authority to use up to \$2 million per year from ballpark sales tax collections to fund youth activities in Hennepin County. In addition, the Twins are increasing their annual support for amateur sports in the amount of \$250,000. The MBA will also work with the Twins to discuss hosting amateur team events at Target Field.
- Question: *Will there be any seats available from home plate to first base or home plate to third base on the lower level or will they be taken by season ticket holders?*
Mr. Kenney said the Team should reserve some seats for game-day sales and that has been a priority in the past.
- Question: *Any word on the menu selections at the new ballpark?*
Chair Cramer stated Delaware North, the concessionaire selected by the Twins, is working on the menu and it should be a combination of traditional ballpark fare and local unique cuisine.
- Question: *In watching an interview with the Twins Groundskeeper, Larry DeVito, Mr. DeVito mentioned that the design of the field incorporated a heating system?*

Mr. Hunter stated this heating system is being installed and includes miles and miles of continuous tubing. The grass will be allowed to go dormant in the winter and in February the heating system will be used to heat up the soil in order to have the natural grass ready by opening day.

- Question: *If a group of Duluth residents take charter buses come to a game will there be a problem in obtaining tickets?*

Mr. Kenney stated there will be safe and convenient access for charter buses very close to Target Plaza and the home plate entrances. He recommended that large groups coming down for a game call the Twins ticket office to arrange for tickets.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. **Construction and Planning Update – Ed Hunter, MBA Project Manager** – Mr. Hunter stated that many construction activities are closing out. All contaminated soil has been removed. Two out of six heating zones have been installed in the field. Cutting of the sod in Colorado will begin the week of August 24th. Within a 36 hour period the sod will be installed on the playing field. Most of the bowl facing glass and operable partitions on the press, suite, and club levels continue to be installed. By the end of September the outside appearance of the ballpark will look complete. The Ironwood e-pay (a renewable resource) shipped from South America is drying in a kiln in Wisconsin. The Twins are looking at water filtering technology to possibly reuse run-off water as irrigation for the infield. All video boards and displays are installed. Wiring continues in the control room. The tie-in to the HERC steam line is complete. Steam will be flushed through some systems by late August. Work continues on registered land surveys. The MBA, Twins and Met Council are close to executing the Northstar Operations and Maintenance Agreement

Next meeting: August 21, 2009, HHH Metrodome, Minneapolis

There being no further business, Commissioner Campbell moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wade and approved unanimously - 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS. The meeting of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority for July 17, 2009, was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.