



DURHAM COUNTY MEMORIAL STADIUM AUTHORITY

(Minutes of the October 18, 2013 Special Meeting)

The Durham County Stadium Authority convened at 12:00 noon on Friday October 18, 2013 in the 2nd floor Commissioners Conference Room in Durham, North Carolina.

Members present included Chairman Tommy Hunt, Vice-Chairman Willie Bradshaw, Frank Davis, Dan Moushon, Commissioner Wendy Jacobs, Larry Dixon and County Manager Mike Ruffin.

Chairman Hunt began the meeting by expressing some concerns he and other board members had regarding the stadium operation and budget.

Chairman Hunt expressed he wanted to see specific goals and expectations set by the stadium authority for the position of stadium authority manager.

County Manager Mike Ruffin passed out a booklet of information to all Board Members and stated he would be supportive where policy allowed.

Larry Dixon read from North Carolina General Statute's information regarding it being the responsibility of the Stadium Authority Board to appoint a stadium manager and other personnel it deems necessary for the smooth operation of stadium.

County Manager Mike Ruffin tried to explain why the stadium authority manager reported to the General Services Director instead of the Stadium Authority.

Larry Dixon stated he had additional concerns as it relates to this appointment because it is clear how the North Carolina General Statute was written regarding this appointment.

County Manager Mike Ruffin stated that changes may need to be made for the stadium authority to have and control its own budget.

Frank Davis stated the stadium manager responded to all of his needs, but he was not aware of the problems concerning the audit result.

County Manager suggested the Stadium Authority Board consider working with the Human Resources Director to consider how the stadium authority manager work-plan is written.

County Manager will confer with legal staff to see if Stadium Authority Board can go into closed session when stadium manager position is being evaluated.

Willie Bradshaw stated the stadium manager's work has been pretty good.

Dan Moushon stated the issue was not Reco, but the stadium authority position. We need greater control over whoever holds this position.

Dan Moushon and Larry Dixon wanted to see clear work objectives and goals for this position and be involved in how this position is evaluated.

Dan Moushon stated that he had concerns there was still no concession contract in place for the stadium.

Dan Moushon also wanted to know why we were hiring General Services staff to work stadium events instead of using outside sources that would cost less.

Tommy Hunt stated the board will look at that closer at our next meeting.

County Manager thought the Stadium Authority Board should consider events that have a strong and positive economic impact for Durham County. What is the value of events to be scheduled at the stadium?

Frank Davis stated that he was planning to have four track events at the stadium.

Commissioner Wendy Jacobs wanted to clarify roles of the Stadium Authority Board, General Services and the Stadium Manager.

Commissioner Jacobs stated that she felt the Stadium Authority Board needs to have a retreat and invite the Human Resources Director and Shelly Green of the Convention and Visitors Bureau to begin to discuss how to resolve the concerns the stadium authority board has.

Commissioner Jacobs stated that part of the General Services Directors job is to balance their operating budget which may be conflicting with the stadium authority goals.

Commissioner Jacobs said the Board should consider working with the HR Director and the GS Director to discuss and evaluate the stadium authority manager's position.

Dan Moushon also stated he thought the Retreat was a great idea.

Larry Dixon wanted the board to push for a Sports Authority to take the lead in developing ways to bring big time events to Durham.

Commissioner Jacobs was in agreement about a sports authority.

Larry Dixon also stated he would inquire additional information as to the type of events held at the Dorton Arena in Raleigh which has the same seating and amenities offered at the county stadium.

Chairman Hunt also wanted the board to develop tighter controls in the way contracts are signed and delivered to all parties.

Commissioner Jacobs and County Manager Mike Ruffin asked to allow Human Resources Director to lead the Stadium Authority Retreat to be held in the new Human Services Complex.

County Manager also suggested we develop a way to receive user comments from stadium users to get a feel of how we are doing.

County Manager stated he will also have a conversation with the General Services Director.

At the request of Chairman Hunt the County Manager will attend and also ask Marquetta Welton to attend some of the Stadium Authority Board Meetings.

Commissioner Jacobs also asked the Stadium Authority Board to clarify its mission and objectives.

Larry Dixon asked the Board to have the next stadium authority meeting in November in the County Commissioners conference room. The request was approved. Larry Dixon also asked the board to consider having more frequent meetings.

Chairman Hunt stated that we would discuss that at the next meeting.

Upon the proper Motion the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Dixon, Acting Recording Secretary

Durham County Stadium Authority