

Pima County Sports & Tourism Authority

**Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
465 W. St. Mary's Road
Tuesday, April 8, 2008
9:00a.m.**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Note: The following is a summary of what transpired at the April 8, 2008 meeting.

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:22 a.m. by Jack Camper with a quorum.

Members Present

Carlotta Flores
David J. Cohen
David Sitton
George Favela
Jack Camper
Jim Arnold
Justin Lanne
Kendall Bert
Linda McNulty
Mike Feder
Rick Vaughan (via phone)
Rocky LaRose
Sheila Baize
Tom Tracy

Members Absent/Excused

Edgar Soto (due to technical difficulties with the phone)

Others Present

Catherine Strickland
Tom Moulton
Rick Grinnel
Paul Parisi
Dan Schneider
Ben Buehler-Garcia

2. History of spring training and Board orientation

Tom Tracy gave the group a brief history explaining there are three needs: 1) to find a replacement team for the White Sox 2) to complete renovations to Hi Corbett and Tucson Electric Park and 3) to find a renewable funding source

(i.e. a tax). Since a renewable funding source is needed to accomplish the other two, the proposal is for a .5% sales tax above what's currently instated. The proposal has so far experienced industry buy-in and is supported by hotels, restaurants and attractions. The Southern Arizona Delegation has agreed to champion the bill on condition that the Authority can convince the delegation that they have the support of southern Arizona businesses. If the bill passes, a new Sports and Tourism Authority will be named that is patterned after the Maricopa Sports and Tourism Authority that has the same powers but would be able to procure a funding source if the proposal passes via a vote to the people. A sunset provision in the bill states that if the vote doesn't pass, the Sports and Tourism Authority will go away. The .5% tax would generate an estimated 10 million annually, 2.5 million of which would be dedicated to youth and amateur sports.

If the legislation passes, the tax could go to vote as early as November 2008, but it will probably be put on a special election ballot in March 2009 which is in good timing with Spring Training and the support of our local teams. Most members of the current interim board are expected to be on the board of the legislated Sports and Tourism Authority.

3. Discuss funding needs and sources

Mike Feder gave a brief history of AAA teams in Tucson and the need to get Tucson on the map to have professional baseball teams move their franchises here. This led to a breakdown of three tracks summarized by Tom Tracy that the Sports and Tourism Authority needs to achieve in order to attract and maintain Major League Baseball's presence in Tucson.

- Track one—establish funding sources.
- Track two—recruit other teams to provide competition
- Track three—improve our existing facilities and decide how much the teams as well as various jurisdictions should be liable to assist in the upgrades.

4. Elect Officers: Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer

Jack Camper led the Authority in the nominations and election of the three officer positions within the group. George Favela made a motion to nominate Tom Tracy for Chairman and Carlotta Flores voiced a second. There was no discussion and no objections so the motion passed making Tom Tracy the Chairman. Tom Tracy made a motion to nominate Mike Feder for Secretary and Linda McNulty voiced a second. There was no discussion and no objections so the motion passed making Mike Feder the Secretary. Linda McNulty made a motion to nominate David Cohen for Treasurer and David Sitton voiced a second. There was no discussion and no objections so the motion passed making David Cohen the Treasurer.

5. Direct officers to obtain Director and Officer Liability Insurance

There was some discussion as to the need for Director and Officer Liability Insurance to protect all members of the Authority. Tom Tracy made a motion to have the Authority move forward in obtaining the insurance and David Sitton voiced a second. Mike Feder suggested having Dan Schneider investigate the Authority's options and present them with some bids.

6. Determine regular meeting schedule

It was determined that the Authority would meet every two weeks on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 11:30am to 1:00pm. The meeting location will vary as the group wishes to rotate to be fair to all members of the Authority in their respective commutes. As the Authority feels comfortable the meeting frequency will eventually drop back to once a month.

7. Future Agenda Items

- Discuss open meeting laws
- Report on State Legislation
- Discuss findings of Director and Officers Insurance
- Discuss legal counsel
- Discussion to hire executive director and staff
- Discuss formulation of committees and subcommittees
- Discuss history of previous Sports and Tourism Authority
- Budget discussion
- Discuss potential funding sources
- Discussion regarding engaging amateur and youth sports

8. Call to the Public

Dan Schneider introduced himself to the group and shared his background in baseball, especially his contract with the Milwaukee Braves. He has been a Tucson businessman since his 10 years in Major League Baseball. He got involved with the efforts to save Spring Training when Jack Camper shared his concern with him. With his experience to back him he has had dialogues with both the Colorado Rockies and Arizona Diamondbacks. He has also brought Jim Click into the loop. He values baseball as a tourism asset that boost's Tucson's economy and as such is eager to assist the Authority in any way he can.

Paul Parisi from the Tucson Chamber explained his involvement with the Striker bill that the Authority hopes will get on the legislation. He stressed that

Tucson must show they support this endeavor for it to get to the Senate this late in the game. He encouraged everyone in the Authority to attend tomorrow's lunch meeting in Phoenix at the Capitol in the Senate first floor hearing room one at noon. The more people that attend and answer questions, the more convinced the delegation will be to move forward.

Rick Grinnel from Metro Restaurants shared his concern in keeping the topics that are discussed by the Authority sensitive and suggested limiting communications to the Chairman.

Tom Tracy summarized the comments from the public and thanked everyone individually that was present for all of their involvement and hard work.

9. Adjournment

Jim Arnold made a motion to adjourn at 10:44am and George Favela voiced a second.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2008

Pima County Sports and Tourism Authority

Respectfully submitted by _____