

**Pima County Sports & Tourism Authority
Leo Rich Theatre
260 S. Church Ave., Tucson, Arizona
Tuesday, October 7, 2008
6:30 PM
Minutes**

1. Roll Call

Tom Tracy called the meeting to order at 6:41p.m with a quorum

Members Present

Tom Tracy
David Cohen
Rick Vaughan
Mike Feder
Rick Grinnell
Edgar Soto
Jack Camper
Dave Sitton

Other Present

Dan Schneider
Paul Jensen
Tom Moulton
Darrell Miller
Tim Buzard
Rick Perreault
Clint Peek
Bob Gugino
Fred Gray
Jake Knapp
Joel Waldman

Members Absent/Excused

Linda McNulty
Sheila Baize
Rocky LaRose
George Favela
Kendall Bert
Jim Arnold
Justin Lanne

2. Review and discuss the White Sox proposal

Tom Tracy introduced the White Sox speakers and explained that questions would be fielded via cards at the end and encouraged those interested to leave their comments on a comment card before the conclusion of the meeting that would be directed Chuck Huckelberry as feedback from the meeting.

Tim Buzard presented and reviewed the White Sox proposal and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the meeting

and go over the White Sox proposal. He gave a brief overview about himself. Tim Buzard is a senior vice president of administration for the Chicago White Sox.

He started his presentation with a little bit of history about the White Sox. The White Sox have been in Tucson for a decade and won the world championship in 2005. Then he introduced Rick Perreault from Top Choice Baseball and Darrell Miller from Major League Baseball.

He explained that the White Sox are not displeased with Tucson but they received an offer to move to Glendale, Arizona, which is the primary place of White Sox fans.

Tim mentioned that it has been hard to find another baseball team to replace the White Sox since they just have not had long to look for a replacement and let everyone know.

Youth sporting events create tournaments, and the White Sox want to introduce Rick and the other board members to the idea of a tournament facility. The White Sox have already undergone the process of evaluating and they believe it's a realistic alternative for the facility and will have a great impact in the community.

This proposal will create an environment where youth can have an appropriate field to play baseball and travel to different places to compete with other teams as well other teams coming to play baseball in a nice field.

Most facilities are not appropriate for kids from 8-13 as they were created to Major League specifications. The real impact comes from the people who come from out of town to play a tournament. An opportunity from a facility viewpoint would be to create an environment for these kids by having a facility with everything they need to play.

The White Sox hopes to provide a baseball facility where athletes can find everything in one place while also attracting more kids from out of town. The economic impact study shows that this facility will have a social and economic impact by bringing more people.

Darrell Miller spoke about economic impact study

Darrell, with Major League Baseball, shared that we need to give the kids and youth the opportunity to play professional baseball. He believes

education in Tucson is lacking and that by motivating and teaching children in youth sporting activities will help children succeed in school.

There will be some kids that are not good in baseball however; there are other options for them. It does not matter what type of qualities the person has, baseball is the only game that is not necessary to have a good physical qualities the only requirement is to have a great attitude.

Tom Tracy

Tom explained that the County Administrator sent packets to everybody to fill out regarding the report and asked that the Sports & Tourism Authority communicate the results back to the County Administrator. There are four sections that this report is broken into:

- a. Feasibility of the amount of tournament play that is suggested
- b. Economic impact of the report
- c. Facilities and utilization of facilities in the report
- d. Diamondbacks and Rockies are partner teams that are affected

He explained that the Authority needs to deal with the economic impact, facilities involved, as well as the teams.

Questions for the White Sox

Tom Tracy started with a question about the size of the facility; that perhaps eight fields are not enough of fields. Tim explained that the White Sox are going to determine this based on the age group and use of the fields. If they want to have a big tournament it will be necessary to have big fields but is based on the age group and size of the tournament.

To compare to the Phoenix market, about 16 fields are used each weekend on average for tournaments and so while it is hard to know what the economic impact is (due to secrecy), the fields will be expanded to fit the demand and get the most use for tournaments.

Another question was asked regarding the tournament traditions in Phoenix that typically have hundreds of tournaments a year. The concern is that if you have seventeen hundred teams playing in Phoenix, how can a small town like Tucson compete and get tournaments without stealing from Phoenix?

The response was that it won't be hard for tournaments that cannot find space in Phoenix to come to Tucson since the drive is not as bad as it's said to be. In reality the drive from central Phoenix to Peoria is a challenge due to the distance and traffic so the drive to Tucson is no worse.

There was a concern voiced that the White Sox would not be able to fulfill their contract in Tucson while training in Phoenix. Tim addressed this explaining that the White Sox never said that they would end their contract, but rather they plan to complete it and specific questions should be referred to Jerry Reinsdorf.

One question had to do with economic impact and the perception that people who come for tournaments eat out at fast food and stay in cheap motels. This is not the case, according to the studies, families who come for tournaments stay in mid-range to nice accommodations and eat at nice restaurants. More information can be found on the website www.topchoicebaseball.com under tournaments.

4. Call to the Public

The question and answer period via speaker cards took place at this time.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM