

MINUTES OF
THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE
SACRAMENTO BALLPARK AUTHORITY

December 11, 1997

The meeting of the Governing Board of the Sacramento Ballpark Authority was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 1997 by Chair, Joe Serna, Jr.

Present: Cox, Dickinson, and Serna

Absent: Johnson and Steinberg

1.0 Minutes

1.1 Approval of September 11, 1997 meeting minutes

A MOTION was made by Boardmember Dickinson, seconded by Boardmember Cox to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried 3-0 with 2 absent.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Consideration of Preliminary Budget [Tom Friery]

It was felt that the board is not ready to take on a preliminary budget at this time. A MOTION was made by Boardmember Dickinson, seconded by Boardmember Cox to continue this matter to a later date. The motion carried 3-0 with 2 absent.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Play Ball! Sacramento - status report [Steven Sakurai]

Mr. Sakurai announced that he has been selected as the new president of Play Ball! Sacramento. A brief report was given with a notation that there is a Spring Training trip being planned for March.

Mr. Sakurai shared that first and foremost a site needs to be secured for Sacramento. He continued that once this was in place, things will move along. Additionally that a full time staff person is needed to assist in the selection of a site. He addressed much of his comments to 'what does Sacramento want to look like in the next 10 years'. Noted that they are here to assist and support the effort.

3.2 Formation of a Private Business/Citizen's Stadium Ballpark Advisory Group
[Tom Lee]

Mr. Lee gave a brief report reviewing the formation of the SBA in December of 1996. The purpose of SBA is to:

- └ identify a location for a ballpark within the Sacramento region;
- └ recommend design elements;
- └ develop and implement a financing plan; and
- └ facilitate the location of a professional baseball team in Sacramento

He noted that the SBA is a "public authority" to facilitate siting, financing and constructing a professional baseball facility in the Sacramento region should a professional baseball franchise relocate to this area. He further shared that based on other cities experience, this type of public sector support is needed in order to obtain the private sector support to purchase and/or relocate an existing team and ownership to locations that do not have preexisting facilities.

He continued that the SBA was not established to finance, negotiate or compete with the private sector to solicit baseball teams to this region. The SBA Steering Committee believes that a private business/citizen's stadium ballpark advisory group should be formed to carry out this task and work in conjunction with the SBA to promote professional baseball in the Sacramento region. This joint effort would allow the public and private sector to work to achieve this goal by creating a unified strategy due to the complexity of the project.

Mr. Lee advised that the primary purpose would be to have representatives from Valley Vision, Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce and SACTO form a private stadium baseball advisory group to determine if there is sufficient private sector financial support to purchase a professional baseball franchise or to relocate an existing team and ownership to this area. It is further recommended that the group be from the Sacramento region and formed within 120 days or by April 30, 1998.

Bill Edgar, City Manager for the City of Sacramento, stated that he along with Bob Thomas, CEO for the County of Sacramento had met with the Chair and Vice-Chair of SBA to discuss this matter. Consequently Mr. Edgar asked - what are the next steps? A purpose, determination of economic feasibility, timeline, workplan and a quarterly report.

With the assistance of a diagram Mr. Edgar proposed that the proposed advisory group would be requested to:

- ◆ report quarterly to the SBA;
- ◆ determine the economic feasibility of a baseball franchise in the Sacramento region;
- ◆ determine if there is sufficient private sector interest to acquire and/or relocate an existing team and ownership to the Sacramento region; and

- ◆ determine if there is adequate support to develop and action plan and timeline to construct a professional baseball stadium.

The recommendation from Mr. Edgar and Mr. Thomas is that the SBA approve transmitting a letter to Valley Vision, Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce and SACTO to solicit involvement from local businesses and citizens interested in acquiring a professional baseball team for the Sacramento region; and that this group be formed within 120 days or by April 30, 1998.

Boardmember Cox offered that there are models available (i.e. Denver, San Diego) that could be secured and used. He noted that several began with Triple A teams and smaller stadiums.

Boardmember Dickinson stated that this needs to be a joint effort of both private and public; that funds could come from ticket holders, naming rights and additional forms of financing. Mr. Dickinson feels confident that once the public becomes aware, they will be anxious to get involved as well.

Bill Mueller representing the Metro Chamber advised that they are very interested and are anxious to be "at the table" and most likely would want to assist in setting up the group.


Boardmember Dickinson noted that it will be important to get the message out as to what is being done and why.

Chair Serna noted that the successful began with Minor League teams; that securing a Minor League (Triple A) team in the relatively near future is a must. He continued that by doing this it would give the families in Sacramento a chance to enjoy ball in case there would ever be a need to go to the ballot.

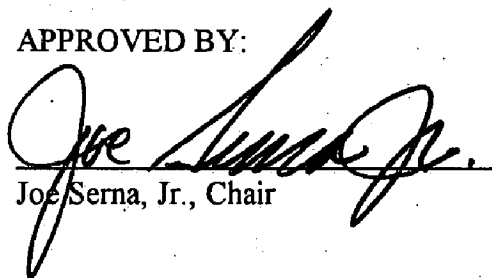
A MOTION was made by Boardmember Cox, seconded by Boardmember Dickinson to proceed with the recommendations as presented. The motion carried 3-0 with 2 absent.

There being no other business to come before the Governing board, the meeting was adjourned in memory of Councilmember Sam Pannell at 6:40 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY


Valerie Burrowes, Secretary

APPROVED BY:


Joe Serna, Jr., Chair