



# QUALCOMM STADIUM ADVISORY BOARD

## Minutes of Regular Scheduled Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 2009

STADIUM ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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### I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chairman Rudy Castruita called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

#### Board Present:

Chairman	Rudy Castruita	Present
Member	Jeff Jeffery	Present
Member	Luke Pistorious	Present
Member	Ben Clay	Present
Member	David Baron	Present
Member	Kim Folsom	Present
Member	Carlos Vasquez	Absent
Member	Michael Simonsen	Absent
Member	Les Williamson	Present

**Staff Present:** Mike McSweeney, Stadium Manager; Lauren Griffin, Clerical Assistant II

**Others Present:** Susan Hawke - Centerplate, Bruce Binkowski – Bowl Association, Chet Barfield – Council District 6, Lin Walton - OMBAC, Bill Nelson – Ace Parking, Brent Schrottenboer – Union Tribune

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES November 12, 2009

Approved. Unanimous.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

### IV. COMMUNICATIONS

No Report

### V. CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Rudy thanked Ben for running the previous meeting while he was out of town.

## **VI. BUSINESS PARTNER REPORTS**

### **A. CHARGERS**

No Report

### **B. AZTECS**

No Report

### **C. HOLIDAY BOWL & POINSETTIA BOWL**

Nebraska and Arizona will be playing. They are close to and expecting a sellout. There is high demand for HB tickets. Downtown hotels are getting a lot of business. Expecting to sell at least 30,000 for Pointsettia Bowl - Utah vs Cal. All teams coming for site visits this week. Practice facilities will be USD, UCSD, or SDSU. Hyatt & Marriot are completely booked for Dec 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. Rudy suggested board members may want to attend luncheons on the Midway for the Pointsettia Bowl, and at the convention center for the Holiday Bowl. Rudy hopes that Arizona's close proximity will bring more fans to the city to stay for a few days.

### **D. OMBAC**

Season begins, and goalposts are installed in Jan.

### **E. ACE PARKING**

Preparing for the four major events this month. CIF coming up on Friday, expecting it to rain. Rudy asked about how the new flow and taxi/dropoff zones outside the stadium are working. There has been an approximate 75% reduction of cabs in interior, able to turn them around at most entrances. West entrance cant be turned around, and some may be forced into the lane if they were coming out of Ikea. They try to charge them the \$25, or give them a payment envelope. They can pay online. They have been successful getting payment by following up with the parent companies after the fact. Rudy was impressed with the courtesy and efficiency he observed getting into the lot. The taxi dropoff is right in front on San Diego Mission Rd. Ben had concerns this is a long way to walk, and not very customer friendly. The move was intended to make it easier for emergency personnel access, and reduce the gridlock caused by people who just come to party in the parking lot, but not attend the game, making it easier for paying patrons to get through. To date there have not been complaints, and the dropoff point is closer to the stadium than some of the far parking lot spaces. Rudy commended Ace Parking for addressing their previous concerns.

### **F. CENTERPLATE**

Also are preparing for the upcoming events. They have some holiday parties scheduled. The larger parent company is preparing for the Miami superbowl. Had some tent issues with the wind and rain, but got them secured. CIF should be a long and good day.

### **G. SAN DIEGO AUTO CONNECTION**

Have a sale scheduled for the weekend. Thanked Mike and the city for the prompt cleanup response to the parking lot after the storm and flooding. David asked how they transport all the cars. Most of the dealers use transportation or auction service crews of maybe 12 people, with a shuttle van that follows them and takes them back to the various dealerships.

## VII. STAFF REPORT

### A. Stadium Manager Mike McSweeney

December schedule is pretty maxed out and we are glad for the business. Storm damage was the most severe in the 6 years Mike has been here. We have Stormwater out here on alert. Water from Murphy Canyon cascades down the hills from the neighborhoods and builds in speed and volume. By the time it gets to us, there is a large amount of pressure and debris. Our parking lot is designated as a floodplain. Once the river is full, there is nowhere else for the water to go but east and west. The river corridors around us cannot just be cleaned out due to environmental impacts and endangered birds. Multiple agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers are involved in governing these areas. Water in the lot was very deep, but drained rapidly. A few lot events had to be moved to other areas due to the silt and mud.

Rudy asked if the stadium had problems with leaks. This is a problem due to the age of the building and the fact that we are an open air stadium. We hire extra people with squeegees to move the water out and keep things as dry as we can. It is budgeted as an event expense. We handle the cost if it is a Charger event, other events are billed.

Les asked if the Army Corps of Engineers or someone else is supposed to do any kind of maintenance to prevent the flooding, and how often this happens. It is not clear which agency, if any would do this, although we have looked into it. This has happened three times in six years, or any time there is heavy rain. Our immediate procedure is to contact Stormwater to come with their equipment and be sure the facility is ready for patrons.

Ben asked how the training camp repairs fared during the storm. This was the big test, and the new spillway handled the load of water very well. The Chargers did not report any problems with it. They had a few office leaks, which we are responsible for, and those were taken care of.

Right after the CIF games, the field will be resodded. There are some new teams this year, and we are expecting a pretty good turnout. We would resod at this time of year anyway, and it continues a great tradition and experience of allowing the kids the chance to play on a real NFL field.

The Chargers have played two games since the last board meeting. The Philadelphia game brought 3000 out of state fans to rent our practice field, and another party of 1500 in the parking lot.

The Kansas City game was very easy and low key, probably due to being right after the Thanksgiving holiday.

SDSU season is over, and their billing is just about ready.

Councilman Todd Gloria and his staff came down for a tour. This was a great opportunity to give him an idea how things really work down here, and an in person look at some of our challenges. Jeff asked how many other council members have done this. Todd is the first one. Rudy raised an idea to invite all the council members down individually, and there was discussion of sending them all invitation letters.

David asked about how one goes about getting a suite. The Chargers hold the rights and have a sales staff for renting suites. Chargers ticket holders have the option to buy tickets to other events, but if they choose not to, it is their suite, and it stays dark. There may be a few unsold suites that might be rentable for a specific, non football occasion or events, but the Chargers would have to be contacted to arrange that.

Rudy wanted to return to the topic of previous difficulties that have been experienced trying to collect fees from SDSU, and possible cash flow problems that could prevent them from paying us. Despite the state's money issues, if they don't pay us, they will not have a facility to play in. Jeff underscored his involvement with the contract, and felt comfortable with the people he had dealt with during that process, their commitment to us, and their commitment

to their own program. TCU will also be playing a Bowl game, which means a million dollar check for SDSU.

Mike thanked Ben for the introductions that have resulted in an Auto Museum antique car race event possibly being scheduled for next summer.

- B. Deputy City Attorney  
No report.

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

No report

#### **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

The unexpected budget cut issues from last month unfortunately had to take precedence over preparing the business plan, so that has been pushed back. There was a \$180 million dollar city budget shortfall, and each department across the board was asked to cut 27%. This translated into 1.6 million dollars being cut from our 18.6 million dollar budget. We should be able to save an additional \$175,000, keep all of our personnel, and keep the stadium open. Interest on our bond payments is over 4 million dollars a year, and our largest expense. We are working with Debt Management to renegotiate the bonds, or possibly eliminate fire and earthquake insurance. Eliminating the insurance payments would save \$736,000. It is still early to know what the bond interest savings would be, but any reduction would be an improvement.

We may try to hire some of the service people we use for Jumbotron and the like directly, rather than paying the large company they work through. We are going to reduce our 24 hr security personnel, by investing in more surveillance equipment. Capital improvement and maintenance funds have taken a big hit. Sending workers to other departments during the summer was explored, but it was recognized that stadium condition and appearance would suffer too much. We will have to make do with minor parking lot repairs, rather than the full, proper job it needs. These cuts will affect us at least until the 2011 fiscal year.

Rudy was concerned the \$736,000 insurance cut money cannot be counted on yet. He would also like an email of the potential budget cuts sent to board members so they can respond to questions from the public.

#### **X. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Rudy and Kim noted the city suite tickets going to charity are resulting in the need for more supervision in the city box, and that everyone may not be paying the \$20 concessions fee. The idea of using wristbands was brought up, and concerns about alcohol consumption were raised. Kim also feels it is difficult to remember to request tickets 10 days before an event, and found many of the tickets had already been dispersed to the charities before then.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 am.

The next Regular meeting will be Thursday January 14, at 8:15 am.