



QUALCOMM STADIUM ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Regular Scheduled Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2015
STADIUM ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

Board Present:

Chairman	Rudy Castruita	Present
Member	John Thomson	Absent
Member	Ben Clay	Absent
Member	Les Williamson	Absent
Member	Jesse Durfee	Present
Member	Luke Pistorius	Present
Member	Albert Velasquez	Absent
Member	Carol Jeffries	Present
Member	Andy Zlotnik	Absent

Staff Present: Mike McSweeney-Stadium Manager; Maria Villanueva-Stadium Secretary

Others Present: Mark Neville-San Diego Bowl Games; Eddy Goldenberg-Ace Parking; Alex MacKenzie-SD Sportservice; Stephen Vance-SANDAG; Kirk Bradbury-Quality Infrastructure Company; Julia Richards-San Diego River Conservancy.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of September 10, 2015 – Approved. Unanimous.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments to report.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

Stephan Vance, SANDAG – An update was given on the design plan for the San Diego River Trail that would pass through the south end of the Stadium along the river's edge. Exhibits was passed out and the following was discussed:

- Alignment study have been completed and close to completing the preliminary engineering work.
- Up for public review is the CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration document. The 30 day comment period began November 4th.
- Working closely with the City of San Diego, and the Stadium staff on how the bike trail will work its way through the south end of the parking lot.
- Parking spaces needing to be reconfigured to provide a drive aisle. A total of 56 parking spaces would be impacted on the East end, under the Trolley tracks, and would also impact the parking of the Stadium's movable bleachers.
- Barriers to be used whether positive, movable, or chain link fencing to keep anyone from jumping over to disrupt a private/paid event at the Stadium.
- Consideration to keep the bike trail from cutting through the Stadium's storage area that houses machinery and other equipment.
- Possible flooding of the bike path which will run through a flood zone. But with the Murphy Canyon run-off being dredged a year ago, flooding has been greatly reduced.
- After the 30 day comment period, next steps is to adopt the M & D in January 2016 and start with the final design. A bid should be out by the following summer/fall of 2016. Expecting the bid process to take three to five months, construction taking about four months, the project could be completed by spring of 2017.

V. CHAIRPERSON REPORT

- A. Chairman Rudy Castruita** – No report. Inquired if the Stadium has a plan in place in preparation of an El Niño weather forecast to hit San Diego. See Mike McSweeney's Staff Report.

VI. BUSINESS PARTNER REPORTS

A. CHARGERS

No Report.

B. AZTECS

No Report.

C. SAN DIEGO BOWL GAMES

Mark Neville – Just around the corner is the Holiday Bowl on December 30th and possibly having Oregon and Wisconsin play at the Stadium. Poinsettia Bowl will be on December 23rd with a "Stadium Spectacular" fireworks show.

D. OMBAC

No Report.

E. ACE PARKING

Eddy Goldenberg – Getting into Bowl mode. Working with Cheryl Tissue on parking and tailgating questions.

F. SAN DIEGO SPORTSERVICE

Alex MacKenzie – Still in full season mode and actively hiring. Recently assessed by Barratt Sports and given a rating of 84% on guest services which is not bad for the first year. Hoping to reach a goal of 88% by the next assessment. Working with associates on the ten universal standards, from greeting guests to saying thank you, giving the fans a positive game day experience. Getting ready for the Bowl games. Tailgate menus was presented and approved by the San Diego Bowl Games committee.

Jesse Durfee inquired about employing special needs individuals on whether that was discontinued. Alex replied that no one is turned away from applying at the job fairs. There are a number of employees working for San Diego Sportservice that worked for the previous food & beverage company.

Mike McSweeney added that gross sales have greatly improved since San Diego Sportservice have come on board.

Rudy Castruita inquired how credit card sales are going and whether a difference is seen in speed of service and less waiting in line. Alex MacKenzie replied their POS have been upgraded to be PCI compliant. With fail over technology should the network go down, purchases could still be processed without the fans knowing the difference in service. Alex noted the upcoming technology of Chip-and-PIN credit cards will slow down transactions.

VII. STAFF REPORT

A. Stadium Manager Mike McSweeney

El Nino Plan – A three stage plan is being put in place in preparation for, during, and after the storm. Will work with Storm Water to keep all drains clear, have enough pumps readily available, and have vehicles moved when necessary to avoid being under water. The only cause for concern, and what can't be helped, is the river water rising and flooding the South West quadrant.

Qualcomm Stadium ID Badges – Communication was sent to have a “selfie” emailed to SD Sportservice to replace expired badges. Board members that have not yet done so can go to the SD Sportservice Human Resources department at Gate F after the meeting to have their picture taken per Alex MacKenzie.

New Event Coordinator – Josh Brown was introduced to the Board Members. Josh has been here a month and has already been able to provide the type of service needed to get a lot more done, provide a high level of service to our tenants, long time clients, and potential clients. Josh Brown informed the Board Members of his background:

- Originally from Georgia and has been in San Diego for five years.
- Has nine years' experience working in events facility stadium management.
- Work experience at two minor league ball parks, UCSD's Price Center and USD's Joan Kroc School of Peace Studies.
- Holds a degree in Sports Management with a minor in Business from Georgia Southern University.

Stadium Staffing – All positions had been filled until a couple of weeks ago when two Building Service Technician's transferred to other jobs. Looking to get the two BST positions to be filled quickly.

Stadium Operations – Experiencing an accelerated rate of repairs to equipment:

- Jumbotron - Around since 1997 is starting show its age with needed repairs.

- Electrical/Power Grids – The Stadium receives power from two grids, primary and secondary. Should the primary grid fail, the secondary grid takes over automatically. The switch over is barely noticeable except for during events when the mercury vapor lamps are used to light the stadium field. The lamps have to cool down and then takes about 20 minutes to come back on. This issue is currently being worked on.
- Forty-Second Clock – An hour and a half before the Utah football game kickoff, the 40 Second clock had a fire which also affected the second clock to be down. Thankfully, SDSU helped in taking parts needed from their clock to repair the stadium clock. SDSU and Scoreboard Solutions did a tremendous job, all was well and working 5-10 minutes before kickoff.

Fire Station 45 – Officially moved from the temporary building by the Practice Field to their brand new fire house across the street. The vacated space will be used for overflow parking.

Closed Captioning – The Stadium has always been in compliant providing this service throughout the stadium for all events. Even with networks that does not closed captioning, a feed to the Jumbotron is sent to the encoder where a typist sits to capture and broadcast the information. Also looking in to a special app for users to see the closed captioning on your smartphone, as well as armrests that can hold your smartphone.

Events – Three more Charger football games to go, Aztecs has two games left, Poinsettia and Holiday Bowl to end the year. January will be Women's soccer playing against Ireland.

VIII. BUSINESS ITEMS

No items to report.

IX. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

No comments to report

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m. The next meeting will take place Thursday, December 10, 2015.

Note: December meeting was cancelled and will resume January 14, 2016.