

METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION-RECREATION COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 93-17

Authorizing and directing the Chairman to send a letter to the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, Inc., stating support for a one year option on the part of the owner of the Calgary Cannons for the Portland territory but only for the 1994 season.

The Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission finds:

1. That the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, Inc. is considering granting a one year option on the Portland Minor League territory to the Calgary Cannons which would prevent any other minor league team from coming to Portland during that year.
2. That staff have been discussing both Triple A and Single A baseball with respective owners and have analyzed the economics of both options as it affects Portland and have concluded that Triple A baseball is the more positive economic option.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission directs that the Chairman send a letter to the NAPBL President supporting a one year option for the Calgary Cannons owner for 1994 and opposes any extension of such option for any owner or prospective owner beyond 1994.

Passed by the Commission on October 13, 1993.

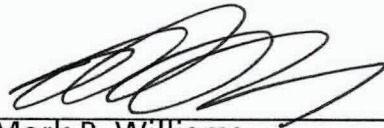

Chairman


Secretary/Treasurer

Approved As to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

By:


Mark B. Williams
Senior Assistant Counsel

MERC STAFF REPORT

Agenda/Item Issue:

Resolution No. _____

Ongoing discussions between staff and several individuals representing baseball interests have been taking place since mid-summer.

Triple A Baseball:

On Monday, October 4, 1993 I spoke with Bill Cutler, President of the Pacific Coast League. We were informed that the League had officially requested protection of the Portland territory. The request has been put in front of Mike Moore, President of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, Inc., the governing body for all minor league baseball. The request was accompanied by a \$ 10,000 check put forth by Russ Parker, owner of the Calgary Cannons. If the request is granted, it secures the territory for one year and may be renewed for two consecutive years. As of this writing, President Moore has yet to make a decision whether or not to accept the request. If he does accept, the territory will remain unavailable to other teams within the jurisdiction of the Association, including the A baseball team from Bend. If Mr. Moore denies the request, the territory is unclaimed and we are free to enter into an agreement with any team in organized baseball. As a note, independent baseball does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Association and we may enter into negotiations with independent baseball representatives at any time.

Bill Cutler explained the PCL's position as feeling Portland is the size and caliber of city requiring baseball at the Triple A level. He assured us that either Calgary or Edmonton, both of which are continuing to struggle with negotiations in their respective cities, are strong prospects. He also mentioned the possibility of league expansion as a possibility within the next three years.

We have continued discussions with the Calgary Cannons owner and he has expressed a very positive impression of the Portland market, but is not prepared to make any decision for at least another year. Edmonton's arrangements with the city to build a new ballpark have recently fallen apart. We will be contacting that team shortly.

Single A Baseball

Mr. Jack Cain, owner of the Bend Rockies has a strong interest in moving his team to Portland. Candy spoke with him on Tuesday, October 5 and he is taking the position of formally protesting the PCL's request to secure the Portland territory when there is no declared team ready to move here.

Staff Recommendation:

After a good deal of discussion and having run the numbers for A and AAA ball, it is staff's recommendation that a letter be sent to President Mike Moore concurring with the PCL's request but adding language to the effect that MERC's concurrence is conditional on Civic Stadium remaining vacant for one year only.