

METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION-RECREATION COMMISSION

Resolution 94-71

Recommending that the Portland City Council and the Metro Council in 1995 examine the need for, location of and cost for an outdoor stadium in the Portland metropolitan region.

Whereas, Civic Stadium is owned by the City of Portland and is now nearly 70 years old; and

Whereas, the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission has operated Civic Stadium for five years and is knowledgeable about its operation and condition; and

Whereas, the loss of the financial support of the Memorial Coliseum's profits in the last two years, which were used to subsidize operations and capital improvements at Civic Stadium, has caused Civic Stadium to operate at a substantial loss and to diminish its financial reserve; and

Whereas, the Civic Stadium Business Plan developed by the MERC outlines the need for major capital improvements of as much as \$10 million over the next five years; and

Whereas, the MERC has entered into a 3-year lease with the Portland Rockies baseball team which will begin the spring of 1995; and

Whereas, the MERC is pursuing a strategy to effect operating and capital improvements to attract more spectators to Civic Stadium, increase per capita revenues at events held in the Stadium and maximize financial performance of the facility; and

Whereas, a Major League or Triple-A baseball franchise would require a new or largely renovated stadium as a condition for selecting Portland; and

Whereas, the MERC, at its meeting September 14, 1994, reviewed these issues and recommended a public process to develop a public consensus regarding the future of Civic Stadium before a financial crisis occurs that leaves no choice but to close the facility;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MERC recommends that the Metro Council and the Portland City Council declare:

1. Their intent to establish a committee composed of representatives of the City of Portland, Metro; the MERC, the Portland Metropolitan Sports Authority and citizens from throughout the Portland metropolitan region to:

- Analyze the Portland metropolitan region's need for an outdoor stadium and make findings on the need for a stadium in the Portland metropolitan region;
 - Analyze the condition of Civic Stadium, including the cost to renovate it for continued use and for use by a Major League or Triple-A franchise;
 - Analyze the current costs and opportunities of Civic Stadium versus a stadium at a different location;
 - Recommend a course of action on continuing or ceasing use of Civic Stadium;
 - Recommend in favor or against steps to build a new stadium, either at the existing site of Civic Stadium or an alternate location;
 - Project the costs of ongoing operating and capital costs of all recommended actions, including a recommendation to close Civic Stadium;
 - Recommend a way to provide ongoing operating and capital revenue to sustain a stadium operation;
2. That this committee be formed and start its work no later than August 1995 and complete its work and present a report and recommendations to Metro and the City within 18 months,
3. Directs that adequate resources be provided to the committee to assist it in making determinations about the cost of renovating Civic Stadium, the cost of siting and building a new stadium and the ongoing operating and capital expense of a stadium facility.

Passed by the Commission on November 9, 1994




Chairman



Secretary-Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
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