

METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION -RECREATION COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO 94-26

Establishing a final date for the owner of the Calgary Cannons Triple A baseball team, Russell Parker, to declare his decision to move his team to Portland, Oregon and enter into a Civic Stadium lease agreement with M.E.R.C.

The Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission finds:

1. M.E.R.C. has been pursuing the return of Triple A baseball to Civic Stadium and has recruited the Calgary Cannons, a Triple A baseball team in the Pacific Coast League.

2. M.E.R.C. has, in good faith, supported Calgary's petition to the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, Inc., the governing body of minor league baseball, for a one year option on the Portland territory.

3. Earnest negotiations began with Calgary in July of 1993. Territory protection was granted by the Association in October 1993 and no answer from the Calgary Team has been forthcoming.


4. It is now essential that a deadline be set for Calgary Cannon's owner, Russell Parker, to respond in order for M.E.R.C. to meet its commitment to examine alternatives for Civic Stadium operation and to meet its commitment to a report to Metro before June 30, 1994.

5. Calgary Cannon's owner, Russell Parker, was informed of this proposed action on May 2, 1994 via fax of this document and has therefore had two weeks notice of the proposed deadline.

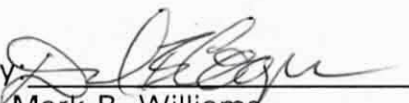
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission set May 16, 1994 as its final date for consideration of the Calgary Cannons as a Triple A baseball team for Civic Stadium and that no response by May 16, 1994 will be considered as a decision by Calgary not to re-locate to Portland, Oregon. Further, the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, Inc. shall be informed of this action by M.E.R.C. legal counsel. If no response is received from Calgary by May 16th, M.E.R.C. hereby directs staff to: 1) prepare a report for the Commission by June 5, 1994 outlining financial alternatives for Civic Stadium operation; 2) begin discussions with all appropriate parties interested in the Stadium operation; and 3) schedule a discussion with the Metro Council to report on alternatives.

Passed by the Commission on May 11, 1994.


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: Establishment of a deadline date for Calgary Cannons

Resolution No: 94-26

Date: May 11, 1994

Presented by: Candy Cavanagh

Background and Analysis: MERC staff has been in contract negotiations with Calgary Cannons owner, Russell Parker since July of 1993. In October of 1993 the Commission passed a resolution stating support for the one year territorial option being sought by Mr. Parker. That option was granted by the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, Inc. and Mr. Parker is now in possession of the Portland territory under the rules governing baseball. FY 1994-95 budgets were built to include Triple A baseball to begin in April 1995.

Since October, staff has continued negotiations with Mr. Parker and discussed the need for a final answer on re-location of the Calgary team to Portland. No answer has been forthcoming.

The Commission has made a commitment to Metro Council to examine alternatives for Civic Stadium operation and shall report its findings to the Council prior to June 30, 1994.

Financial Impact: Staff has begun an examination process of financial alternatives for Civic Stadium operation. The budget will be re-evaluated using an amended event mix to include a lower level of baseball. The budget will then be applied to alternative methods of operation to explore fiscal feasibility. The alternatives are: 1) partial year operation 2) teaming Civic Stadium with another MERC facility, blending is operational functions 3) non-profit operation 4) commercial operation.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the approval of this resolution.