

MAYOR'S BASEBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 11, 1997

9:00 AM

Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order.

Chairman Keegan called the roll.

Present: Chairman Keegan, Alderman Shea, Guild Hill, Joan Bennett, Sean Thomas

Messrs.: R. Ludwig, K. St. Onge (Solicitor's Office)

Chairman Keegan advised that the focus of the meeting was to review and accept the Request for Qualifications from the possible candidates for professional baseball at Gill Stadium. We have in front of us a draft of a proposal done by R.J. and I am open to comments from the members of this committee.

Alderman Shea stated I would say the scope of the proposal is fair, I don't see an areas that I would add anything to.

Mr. Thomas stated we will run this by the Solicitor's office, although it is a very standard document that Ron Johnson of the Parks Department has more than enough experience in drawing up.

Alderman Shea stated I would propose that we run this through the City Solicitor's office to see if there is any legal implications of one type or another.

Ms. Bennett stated I have a question about the last sentence that says "will interview at least three organizations for consideration and will select one organization for award of a contract." Is that a given or are we just recommending?

Is the assumption being made in this statement that one organization would definitely receive a contract, that we would definitely bring a team here, or is that just standard language?

Mr. Keegan answered as part of the selection process the City will interview at least three and select one organization for award of a contract. I agree that sentence should be changed, as part of the selection process this Committee will recommend a candidate.

Alderman Shea asked would that be in terms of whether this committee felt that these people had proposals that made sense, in other words if for instance, their proposal didn't meet any kind of standard or the implications of financial consideration, that the City would have to provide thousands or millions of dollars for them to come in, obviously that would not be in the best interest of the City and I would not go along with it. I thought this would have to include some sort of enclosure that would have to include that you couldn't leave someone submitting a request hanging and say that we may not consider anything at all?

Mr. Johnson stated keep in mind that this is a request for qualifications and not an actual proposal. We are not looking for lease terms, or financial contributions, this is simply a question to potential organizations.

Mr. Thomas stated I don't want to throw hypotheticals on the table at this point, we don't know what is going to come of this.

Mr. Johnson stated the sentence in question was taken right from the procurement code for hiring for professional services. I think the difference between what is happening in this committee and our standard procurement code is when you usually go out through the procurement code you have to make a purchase. One other comment, regarding the scope of the proposal, I put in a five year lease, rather than three year.

Mr. Keegan stated the problem was if it was one or three years lease, it would be difficult to recover any investment with such a short term lease. I would summarize and say except for the last paragraph, I would recommend to the Committee that we accept it as presented.

Mr. Thomas stated then we can have Ron and Kevin work over the wording so that we are not committed.

On motion of Mr. Keegan, duly seconded by it was voted to accept the Request For Qualifications with one change to the last sentence to read such that the Committee will not be forced to recommend one of the applicants to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Mr. Thomas stated because of the time deadline for the wording, I would like to have it forwarded on to the committee members when completed, but I do think we have to put an advertisement in at least one publication today to get it out. We could draft it and do a telephone poll to make sure there were no objections to that section.

Mr. St. Onge stated Ron and I can take five minutes right now and take care of the wording.

Mr. Keegan stated based on the RFQ there is no need to have another meeting until July 2.

Ms. Bennett asked do you have to have the Request for Qualifications ready to go out soon?

Mr. Thomas answered we should be sending it out by July 15, so we would need to hold at least one more meeting before July 2. I have received communications from two organizations that would like to meet with this committee.

Alderman Shea asked do you think it is appropriate for this committee to meet with a group that will be submitting a RFQ?

Mr. Thomas answered no, but I wanted to run it by the Committee.

Alderman Shea stated I think we should only meet with those who respond to the Request.

Mr. Thomas suggested once we receive the RFQ back, we can make a decision on who we would like to select at that point. We should probably meet two Wednesdays from now, June 25.

It was agreed that the committee would meet again on June 25, 1997 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Keegan stated in the paper we advertised a request for comments from the general public, what has been the consensus?

Mr. Thomas answered I have only received six letters to date, but I am going to ask John Toole to do something a little better. The advertisement was in the middle of an article and I don't think everyone would have caught it.

Mr. St. Onge stated I thought it was going to be in the format of a block advertisement saying that the Baseball Advisory Committee exists and it would like to actively solicit comment from the general public. If they would put dotted lines around it people could clip it out and send it in with comments.

Ms. Bennett asked has the response been positive or negative?

Mr. Thomas answered no on has been terribly negative towards it, either they are very gung-ho towards the idea or else skeptical and wish to make sure it would not hurt the children's leagues.

Mr. Keegan asked Mr. Bernier if we find through this process that we can't really recommend any independent team, do we still need a public hearing?

Mr. Bernier answered no because the process would stop there, but it all depends what the Mayor's goals are, so I would ask the Mayor what he thinks.

Mr. St. Onge stated it is a little early to read anything into it but the lack of response would seem to be negative.

Alderman Shea stated I get the same impression.

Mr. Hill stated I am disappointed because I would love to see the baseball committee have a first class operation that is run properly and be successful. I think the City really needs something like that, but the lack of response...

Alderman Shea stated Concord is trying somewhat of a modified version by having a team come in three or four nights.

Discussion ensued regarding the experiment in Concord, and the impact that could have on Manchester's proposal

Brief discussion ensued regarding repairs to Gill Stadium.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor's Baseball Advisory Committee, on motion of Mr. Hill, duly seconded by Mr. Thomas, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest

Clerk of Committee