



Board Approves Cactus League Funding Plan, Goodyear MOU

GLENDALE, Ariz. (Dec. 21, 2006) --The Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (AZSTA) Board of Directors today voted to approve a long-term plan for funding Cactus League projects and a document clearing the way for Goodyear's Spring Training facility to move forward.

The board voted unanimously (8-0) in favor of both measures.

The long-term funding plan forecasts revenues to cover refurbishment of five existing Cactus League facilities for seven teams in Maricopa County as well as two new stadiums in Glendale and Goodyear. The funding plan for a Glendale project stipulates that the Chicago White Sox fulfill all contractual obligations to Pima County prior to relocating.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Goodyear allows AZSTA staff to begin negotiations to complete an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), which is expected to be completed by Jan. 31, 2007. Goodyear has indicated that time is of the essence and wishes to begin construction Feb. 2007 to make a Spring 2008 opening.

In other board actions, directors were briefed on preparations currently underway at the stadium for the upcoming Tostitos Fiesta Bowl and the BCS National Championship games and former AZSTA Board of Directors Chairman John Benton was recognized for his considerable achievements during his tenure from 2004 to 2006.

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