

**MBA E-NEWSLETTER
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Welcome to the first edition of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority's e-newsletter.

For those that may be unfamiliar with our organization, the Minnesota Ballpark Authority (MBA) was created by the 2006 Minnesota Legislature to oversee the construction and operation of a new ballpark in downtown Minneapolis. We will own the site and facility on behalf of the public. The MBA Board consists of **five members**, appointed by Hennepin County (Steve Cramer, Chair and Commissioner Barb Sykora), the Governor (Commissioner Michael Vekich and Commissioner John Wade), and the City of Minneapolis (Commissioner Joan Campbell).

We are pleased to report that 2007 has been a year of tremendous progress on the ballpark project. The Minnesota Twins, Hennepin County, and the project team of M.A. Mortenson, HOK Sport and HGA Architects have been wonderful partners. It is gratifying to see the ballpark design being greeted with wide acclaim, and it is exciting to see the building's foundation start to take shape on the site.

We have benefited from outstanding cooperation from parties that have an interest in the project or are in the midst of their own projects near the ballpark site. We appreciate the input and collaboration of the following organizations: The Design Advisory Group (DAG-360), the Stadium Access Advisory Committee, the Cedar Lake Park Association, the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission, the Northstar Commuter Rail Project, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, the Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, the ABC Ramps Working Group, the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, the University of Minnesota's Center for Sustainable Building Research, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the State Attorney General's Office, the State Auditor's Office and the City of Minneapolis.

In addition, the ballpark benefited from the review and input of the City-County Implementation Committee over the last year, and we appreciate the Committee's work to create a stronger project. Minnesota baseball fans also deserve to be recognized as their ideas and passion for the game have had a significant influence on the design.

The ballpark is on schedule thanks to the efforts of the architects, engineers, construction professionals and attorneys working on the project. As the year comes to a close, we are grateful for everyone's hard work that went into reaching these critical milestones.

2008 promises to be another very busy year for the ballpark project, and we encourage you to visit our web site for updates, including the MBA's **monthly reports**.

In the spring of 2010, going to a game at the new ballpark will be an amazing experience, from the wide open concourses to the intimate feel and great site lines once inside and the sense that downtown is looming just over the outfield wall. It will be a welcoming place for all fans, including those who are disabled. When in the ballpark you will know that it's a facility built to respect our environment. No public facility anywhere will be more transit friendly. And if we achieve our goals, no public facility anywhere will have had a greater community economic benefit than this one, in terms of who works to build the ballpark and who works there once it's open.

So there is much to accomplish, and much to be excited about.

The Minnesota Ballpark Authority is committed to working in partnership with the Minnesota Twins, the project team and other interested parties to create a world-class ballpark. We appreciate your interest in the project and on behalf of the MBA members and staff, we hope you enjoy a happy and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Steve Cramer, Chair

Dan Kenney, Executive Director