

My name is Tony Athen; my wife, Alisa, and I are homeowners in Lowertown. I am a supporter of making Saint Paul a destination city. We would like to see the city attract, promote and create unique ventures ahead of Minneapolis.

I know you have heard from various supporters, critics and stakeholders about the Saint Paul Saints proposed and planned stadium for Lowertown. We have attended several meetings and had numerous discussions with neighbors, business owners and other interested people.

We are not interested in blaming or being overly critical of anyone or any organization. We would like to add our voices to the discussion by offering the following commentary.

The City of Saint Paul has a chance do something unique. You should maximize your leverage on our behalf for the possibility of a multi-use facility.

1. Public (our) money is being utilized; the more reasons people have to utilize the Stadium and patronize the businesses in the area the better.
2. The St. Paul Saints could fold; what are the plans for the space if that happens? A baseball only stadium could have a very limited return on investment, or, worse sit vacant. As you are aware “sustainability” is a concern with any project.
3. The baseball season is short. Why not have opportunities which will be available when baseball is not being played or that could be accommodated before, during and after games.
4. Year round use helps maintain year round jobs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tony Athen and Alisa Johnson Athen; 406 Wacouta Street.