

July 23, 2013

Dear Councilmembers,

In light of recent cost over runs and the fact that it is now public knowledge that the Saint Paul Regional Ballpark development process has not been what the people of Saint Paul, and Minnesota deserved, I ask two things of you tonight:

1. Delay your support for awarding more taxpayer money for the ballpark.
2. Stop the demolition of the Gillette Building.
3. Ensure a study of the possible re-use of the Gillette Building for use a ballpark and multi-use facility is completed without bias.

While the demolition of the massive 1x2 block building is underway (see photo) it is, in fact, not so far along that the building can not be repurposed for the community-driven alternate ballpark proposal.

The City's solicitation of public funds from state Lawmakers and the Dept of Employment and Economic Development in 2012 was not what it could or should have been.

The City's promise to the State and Saint Paul citizen's to ensure "community input will help determine its actual design" has clearly not been kept.

Regarding re-use of Gillette for the ballpark...

In the Star Tribune this morning Mike Hahm – Director Saint Paul Parks and recreation stated that the city had it analyzed by consultants. They deemed it too expensive and unworkable".

This is not true.

Who loses if we slow this down just a bit and make sure we do the right thing here? The Saints are not going anywhere if we do.

Again, who loses if we make sure we do the right thing:

The Saint Paul Saints, their fans, residents and businesses in Lowertown – including the Farmers' Market, residents of this city, Mayor Coleman?

No one loses if we do the right thing.

Tonight, please provide the leadership Saint Paul needs currently.

Delay approving additional funding for the ballpark, delay further demolition of Gillette, and ensure Saint Paul gets the best minor-league ballpark in America.

Thank you.

Bill Hosko