



CITY OF ORLANDO

OFFICE OF
ROBERT STUART
CITY COMMISSIONER

February 10, 2014

Dear Mayor Dyer,

Following the City Council Workshop on January 27 where we had an open discussion regarding the future plans of Tinker Field, and also following my subsequent discussions with staff and constituents concerning same, I'm writing to share my personal thoughts on the future of this historic area.

For many months, maybe even years, I have had discussions with our staff as to the direction of a future renovation of the Orlando Citrus Bowl and the entire area surrounding it. Of course, Tinker Field was always included in those discussions. As I remember, there were also many talks about the long-term planning of the entire area prior to the City/County Venues Agreements of 2007.

I think we asked Orange County to include the entire area (including Tinker Field) within the CRA, which would have provided a revenue stream for preservation and development, but the final CRA boundary includes just the footprint of the Orlando Citrus Bowl, which limits the modifications we can do to the surrounding parcels.

In short, it seems we have limited future options, but I believe there are some things the city can do within the parameters we have been given to preserve the history of Tinker Field, while still moving forward with the Orlando Citrus Bowl renovations:

1. Since the historical designation is for the actual field only, then I believe we should preserve the it with two significant actions:
 - a. Relocate Tinker Field to neighboring McCracken Field (which served as a practice facility for many of the same great ball players who played at Tinker) by relocating Home Plate and renaming it, *Tinker Field at McCracken Park*.
 - b. As we complete resurfacing of the old Tinker Field, we should paint an outline of the field on the parking lot surface (similar to the modifications made at Atlanta's Turner Field) and include special historical markers located within parking lot.
 - i. Home Plate (Tinker Field Informational Marker)
 - ii. Second Base (Marker commemorating the event that featured Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)
 - iii. First Base and Third Base (informational markers featuring Hall of Fame Baseball Players like Harman Killabrew, Ted Williams, etc.)

2. Renovate McCracken Field into a working "replica field" that could be used by the community and for tournaments or semi-pro baseball. Besides a concession building that would include restrooms, we should also provide ample infrastructure for temporary expansion for key games. There are other baseball-specific amenities that we could provide but these would be determined by regular community use.
3. In working with the community and the Orange County Historical Society, we can create a western entrance feature (from Tampa Avenue) that would complement the Orlando Citrus Bowl, and would commemorate the history of Tinker Field. This will require coordination, but we have a process already in place through our FPR monuments and memorials policy, which could provide a good avenue for community and staff input.

Mayor, we can create a wonderful community amenity and preserve history too. We have the opportunity to commemorate and build a place where future generations can learn of the unique and exceptional role that Tinker Field plays in our Great City's history.

As a resident who understands this history of Tinker Field, works in youth baseball here in our community, and has strong ties to these facilities, I am prepared to offer my time to help facilitate these ideas moving forward.

Serving together,



Robert F. Stuart

cc: Commissioner Jim Gray, District 1
Commissioner Tony Ortiz, District 2
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4
Commissioner Daisy W. Lynum, District 5
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings, District 6
Byron Brooks, CAO
Mayanne Downs, City Attorney
Rebecca Sutton, CFO
Allen Johnson, Orlando Venues Director