
HeadWaters Resort & Casino will pursue plans for a gaming facility on development property while casino is under construction

Norfolk, VA – HeadWaters Resort & Casino announced plans to build a temporary casino to the east of the ballpark rather than build it in Harbor Park Stadium as initially considered. The Tribe and the City of Norfolk had explored locating the temporary facility in an underutilized area of Harbor Park because it provided a unique win-win opportunity to upgrade a City-owned, aging facility that would also benefit the community and the fans at no taxpayer expense while generating immediate revenue for the City. However, issues were recently raised about the address of the proposed initial gaming facility. While the Tribe does not believe the ballpark address to be an issue since it was approved by the City, any delay due to a potential challenge is unacceptable.

With the prior construction plan, baseball fans would have enjoyed a major upgrade to the stadium restaurant that would have provided an exciting new venue from which to watch a ballgame; the City would have received a significant capital investment in an aging facility; and the Tides stood to benefit from renovated batting cages and Class A space taken from an interior part of the stadium that is in need of significant renovation. That said, in terms of near term revenue for the City and its schools, the plan to locate the initial casino in the parking lot to the east of the ballpark is a win for the City and will result in an even better customer experience at the new Pamunkey Casino. Plans for the new gaming facility will be provided to the City in the next few weeks.

Once a site plan is submitted and approved by the City, construction on the temporary gaming facility will begin immediately. The Tribe could open the temporary building as early as March of 2023, at which time tax revenue could begin to flow to the City for key budget priorities. [Note: Contrary to media reports, the address of the stadium was never changed.]

In addition, as part of their presentation to the Norfolk City Council, the Tribe reported that their efforts over the past two years to support 10 local food pantries has enabled 327,181 meals to be served to the most vulnerable members of the community in Norfolk.

“This is part of the Tribe’s ongoing efforts to address food insecurity and to ensure that no person in the City of Norfolk goes hungry again,” said Kevin Krigsvold, a member of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe Gaming Authority and a resident of Norfolk.

Other community participation has been the Pamunkey Tribe’s partnership with the Norfolk Tides. Last season, the Tribe sponsored approximately 4,100 tickets for community groups such as the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation, the Southside Boys and Girls Club and the UP Center, to name a few. Additionally, we provided free tickets to thousands of teachers and their families throughout the region as a sign of appreciation for the challenges they and their families have faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When we first announced this project with the City of Norfolk, we described it as not only a major private investment in the City, but a partnership between the Tribe, the City, and this community,” said Robert Gray, Chief of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe. “We will be providing a major capital investment, creating thousands of jobs, and generating millions of local tax dollars that can be used to address aging schools and other critical City priorities. But equally important, we will be in the community, working with so many organizations in Norfolk to address food insecurity and supporting other organizations in need.

HeadWaters Resort & Casino won city approval with an overwhelming majority of residents voting in favor of the project in November of 2020. Once fully operational the project is anticipated to provide tens of millions of dollars in annual tax revenue for Norfolk that is now earmarked for city schools, thousands of jobs and nearly a billion dollars in annual economic impact for the area.

To learn more about HeadWaters Resort & Casino, visit HeadWatersResortCasino.com.

