

Meeting in the middle: IZD out, stadium agreement in

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An Interim Zoning District no longer threatens the future of Tulane University's on-campus football stadium. The New Orleans City Council voted unanimously on Thursday (July 12) to repeal the measure that could have halted its construction.



Several Tulane football players are among stadium supporters who joined President Scott Cowen at Thursday's (July 12) city council meeting. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

District A Council Member Susan Guidry moved to repeal the [zoning proposal](#) in exchange for Tulane's assurance that it would execute an enforceable written agreement with the City of New Orleans over stadium usage and operational issues.



Community members listen to architects' presentations at a forum held at the Audubon Tea Room. (Photo by Sally Asher)

Speaking at the council meeting, Tulane President Scott S. Cowen acknowledged the productiveness of three community forums held at the urging of New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

He further pledged that the written agreement would be confectioned in a “timely manner and would be reflective of what we've heard from our neighbors.”

Cowen agreed that Tulane would not apply for any building permits until the agreement was completed.

Tulane Executive Vice President Yvette Jones told the council about stadium changes that already have been implemented as a result of feedback from the community.

“We have lowered the height of the west side of the stadium, reconfigured seating, restroom and concession areas, moved locker rooms and revised ingress and egress points,” Jones said.

Council President Jacquelyn Clarkson, who attended two of the three public forums hosted by the university, commended Tulane for the exchange of information, saying the forums did much to dispel “myths and rumors” about the \$50 million facility set to open in 2014.

On Wednesday (July 11), about 150 members of the community listened to representatives explain preliminary plans for game day operations such as pregame

deliveries, dealing with media production and postgame cleanup.

A transcript of the third forum will be posted next week on tulanestadium.com, which already contains transcripts and presentations from previous forums as well as additional stadium information.