

# THE MINNESOTA TWINS – HENNEPIN COUNTY BALLPARK

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2007

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## MINNESOTA TWINS-HENNEPIN COUNTY BALLPARK DESIGN UNVEILED

### *Minnesota's New Ballpark to Provide Fans with One of Baseball's Most Intimate Settings*

MINNEAPOLIS – The design of the new Minnesota Twins-Hennepin County ballpark – a cosmopolitan expression of Minnesota's natural beauty – was officially presented to the Hennepin County Board today.

Also invited to the morning presentation at the Hennepin County Government Center were members of the Minneapolis City Council as well as members of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority, the agency that will own and oversee operations of the new ballpark.

"What a tremendous, long-awaited day this is for the Minnesota Twins and baseball fans across the Upper Midwest," said Jerry Bell, president of Twins Sports Inc. "Minnesota's new ballpark will be an inviting landmark and an intimate venue providing for a superior baseball experience for future generations of Twins fans."

"People have been waiting a long time to see tangible progress on this project, and today we reward them for their patience, said Hennepin County commissioner Mike Opat. "This ballpark will not only be a great baseball venue. It will be a great public asset for Minnesota. The design shows that despite our challenges with this site, we will build one of the great urban ballparks in America."

"The Ballpark Authority is excited about working with the Minnesota Twins to create a dynamic new landmark," said Steve Cramer, chairman of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority. "This facility will be an outdoor baseball fan's dream and we believe it will serve as a catalyst to further development on the western edge of downtown."

The one-million-square-foot ballpark will have approximately 40,000 seats. Similar in size to PNC Park in Pittsburgh and AT&T Park in San Francisco, the new Twins ballpark will provide fans with fantastic, baseball-focused sightlines in an intimate setting.

Nestled on an eight-acre site next to the downtown Minneapolis Warehouse District, the ballpark will be an urban architectural icon. The site dictates the ballpark's lean physique, and the design's form follows the function of the events on the field. The seating bowl swathes the field; the exterior walls are shaped by the seating bowl; and a roof canopy spanning nearly the entire seating bowl crowns the ballpark.

"The new ballpark will reflect Minnesota's dynamic blend of urban sophistication and outdoor vitality," said Earl Santee, AIA, HOK Sport senior principal leading the architectural effort. "Minneapolis' downtown skyline will provide dazzling views beyond the outfield, creating a wonderful connection to the city."

The ballpark's exterior is a modern interpretation of the state's natural creations. Hearty, weather resistant, native Minnesotan limestone forms the mass of the ballpark's façade. Glass and metal details punctuate the limestone surface, creating a sophisticated composition.

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Fissures, or gaps, in the stone enclosure of the ballpark will create unique viewing opportunities for fans both inside and outside the ballpark.

In addition to a modern façade, the ballpark will illuminate its mark on the urban skyline with distinct entry beacons. These prow-like icons are a direct reflection of the city's style at each of the ballpark's entry points.

"This project creates a new standard in urban integration," said Santee. "The ballpark connects with fans whether they arrive by foot, bike, bus, car, light rail or commuter rail."

Minnesota's new ballpark promises to be one of the most accessible sports facilities in all of American sport. The ballpark site sits at the convergence point of the Light Rail Transit (the existing Hiawatha Line and future lines such as the Central Corridor), the future Northstar commuter rail line, the Cedar Lake Bike Trail and Interstates 394 and I-94. Moreover, fans will take advantage of the more than 20,000 parking spots within a five-block radius of the ballpark.

The new ballpark strives to be one of Major League Baseball's most environmentally friendly ballparks as well, incorporating conservation, sustainability and energy efficiency into the design.

"A green ballpark was one thing hundreds upon hundreds of fans requested," said Rebecca Greco, AIA, HGA principal. "Because this is a ballpark for all of Minnesota, we placed a high priority on fan input. Minnesota's new ballpark will be a defining testament to a team, a state and its people."

HGA is serving as local architect on the project. They are joined by lead design firm HOK Sport, a Kansas City-based architectural firm which has designed 14 new professional ballparks and M. A. Mortenson Company, a local construction firm which is one of the top three national builders of sports venues.

"We look forward to bringing to life this great ballpark that will celebrate outdoor baseball in Minnesota," said Ken Sorensen, vice president and general manager of Mortenson's Minnesota Office. "Working closely with HGA and HOK Sport, we will build a ballpark for all Minnesotans to call home."

The development agreement signed between the Twins and the county gives the County Board approval over ballpark design; the board is expected to review the ballpark design at its April 17 meeting with a final vote scheduled for the April 24 meeting.

Under the state of Minnesota's authorizing legislation, the county's share of financing the ballpark is \$350 million for construction and infrastructure costs, while the Twins organization is contributing \$130 million. The Hennepin County/Minnesota Twins proposal for a new ballpark was approved by the Minnesota Legislature and signed into law in May 2006. Construction is expected to begin this spring, and the ballpark is scheduled to open for the 2010 season. For more information on the ballpark, visit [www.twinsbaseball.com/newballpark](http://www.twinsbaseball.com/newballpark).

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## Minnesota's New Ballpark: One of Baseball's Most Intimate Venues

Minnesota's new 40,000-seat ballpark is scheduled to open in spring of 2010, marking the Twins' 50<sup>th</sup> season of playing baseball in the Upper Midwest. Designed to provide fans with an outstanding baseball venue, Minnesota's new ballpark will deliver a truly unforgettable sports and entertainment experience.

The new ballpark will provide Upper Midwest fans with one of baseball's most intimate settings. As the new ballpark brings fans closer to the action, it will also feature spectacular views of the Minneapolis skyline and superior baseball sightlines from every seat in the house.

### Seating

Minnesota's new ballpark will feature one of the closest seating bowls to the playing field in all of Major League Baseball, and will have approximately 18,500 infield seats.

### Concourse

The ballpark will feature a 360-degree open main concourse giving fans an uninterrupted view of the playing field. The concourses will be twice as wide as those found in the Metrodome.

### Celebrating Minnesota's Rich Baseball Heritage

Minnesota's new ballpark will celebrate the heritage and history of the game across the Upper Midwest. While plans are yet to be finalized, the ballpark will include tributes to the great Twins teams and players from years gone by as well as other Minnesota baseball icons.

### Field Dimensions

The preliminary dimensions for Minnesota's new ballpark are 339' to Left; 377' to LF Power Alley; 404' to Center; 367' to RF Power Alley; and 328' to Right. The outfield walls are 8' from the left field foul pole to right center field and 23' from right center field to right field foul pole.

### The Knotholes

Minnesota's new ballpark will feature multiple "Knotholes" along the 5<sup>th</sup> Street side of the ballpark allowing fans to watch the action outside the park without buying a ticket.

### Environmentally Friendly Ballpark

An environmentally friendly design that incorporates conservation, sustainability and energy efficiency.

### Restrooms

There will be 401 women's and 266 men's restroom fixtures in Minnesota's new ballpark versus 256 (women's) and 192 (men's) fixtures at the Metrodome.

### Materials

The ballpark's exterior is a modern interpretation of the state's natural creations. Hearty, weather resistant, native Minnesotan limestone forms the mass of the ballpark's façade. Glass and metal details punctuate the limestone surface, creating a sophisticated composition. In addition, whenever possible, the ballpark and surrounding areas will incorporate Minnesota-native flowers, trees and shrubs.

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## Concessions

The Twins will offer a variety of wonderful concession options for fans of all ages.

## Ballpark Location

The North Loop neighborhood and historic Warehouse District of Minneapolis (adjacent to Target Center).

## Ballpark Size

One million total square feet and seating for approximately 40,000 fans, which is comparable to Pittsburgh's PNC Park and San Francisco's AT&T Park.

## Ballpark Type

Outdoor – open-air, natural-grass ballpark, with a view of the downtown Minneapolis skyline.

## Ballpark Owner

The Minnesota Ballpark Authority, a new political subdivision created by the Minnesota Legislature in conjunction with the Twins-Hennepin County ballpark legislation, will own and oversee the new ballpark on behalf of the public.

## Timeline

Construction will start in August 2007; the ballpark will open for the 2010 Major League Baseball season.

## Affordability

Consistent with the team's longstanding tradition of providing affordable family entertainment, the new Twins ballpark will continue to provide fans with multiple seating options and value.

## Accessibility

Minnesota's new ballpark will be among the most accessible in professional sports in terms of seating and access for fans with disabilities.

## Fan Comfort

Seats in the new Twins ballpark will be generally wider and feature more legroom than those at the Metrodome. In addition, the new Twins ballpark will feature more aisles with fewer seats per row.

## Climate / Shelter

The Twins are committed to providing a comfortable experience for fans – even on days when our weather is less than perfect. Fans will be able to take advantage of heated concessions, restrooms, restaurant and lounge areas found on each ballpark level. In addition, the ballpark's sun screen – one of the largest in baseball – will provide added protection.

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# MINNESOTA TWINS-HENNEPIN COUNTY BALLPARK

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, USA



## BALLPARK DESIGN PRINCIPLES

### 1. NATURE

The ballpark will be a celebration of Minnesota's natural beauty

### 2. OUTSIDE - IN

Responding to the outward forces of the city and the site (prescription)

### 3. INSIDE – OUT

A 'form follows function' architectural design (lean and nestled-in)

### 4. REGIONAL INSPIRATION

Inspired by the landscape of the region, the ballpark will echo the look of natural stone with gaps or fissures in the stone massing and ledges

### 5. ENTRY BEACONS

Prows are a direct reflection of the cosmopolitan city at the ballpark's entries

### 6. SPECIAL MOMENTS

Meaningful moments all around the facility with knothole events

### 7. MEETING THE GROUND

Approached by bridges, the design creates wonderful pedestrian experiences

### 8. MEETING THE SKY

Crowned with a glorious canopy that celebrates the beauty of sunny days and starlit nights and shelters the game and fans from unseasonable weather



The new ballpark for Minnesota will be a cosmopolitan expression of vibrant people and the great natural beauty of their state. It will honor baseball's great traditions and reflect Minnesota's dynamic blend of urban sophistication and rugged outdoor vitality. The ballpark design will showcase the urban skyline with materials drawn from the state's granite and limestone cliffs shaped by ice age glaciers. It will celebrate the beauty of sunny days and starlit nights. And as required, it will shelter the game and fans from unseasonable weather.

The exterior will feature Minnesota-native limestone and echo the look of natural stone formations with gaps or fissures in the stone massing and ledges. These ledges or steps will provide distinctive viewing sections that create inimitable fan experiences. The new ballpark for Minnesota will preserve the state's wonderful baseball tradition and add an exciting new dimension to the quality of life. It will be an inviting landmark and an intimate home for America's great pastime. The New Ballpark for Minnesota will be a defining testament to a team, a state and its people.

# THE MINNESOTA TWINS – HENNEPIN COUNTY BALLPARK

## Major League Ballpark Comparison

The Twins new ballpark compared to the Metrodome and other ballparks most similar in terms of total square footage

	Twins Ballpark	Metrodome	PNC Park (Pittsburgh)	AT&T Park (San Francisco)
<b>Approximate Capacity</b>	40,000	55,300	38,000	41,500
<b>Gross Square Footage</b>	1,000,000	1,200,000	970,000	967,000
<b>Seating in Lower Level</b>	20,000	22,289	23,071	21,082
<b>Seating in Upper Level</b>	13,468	32,445	11,174	13,262
<b>Suites</b>	60	95	69	67
<b>Club Seats (includes group seating, suites, lounges, clubs)</b>	3,000	243*	2,897	8,400
<b>Concourse Width</b>				
Main Concourse	40 feet	22 feet	40 - 60 feet	28 feet
Upper Concourse	26 - 44 feet	22 feet	22 - 27 feet	25 feet
<b>Restrooms</b>				
Total Fixtures	667	480	527	333
Women's Fixtures	401	256	273	182
Men's Fixtures	266	192	254	151
<b>Retail Stores</b>	4	0	2	3
<b>Distance from Home Plate</b>				
Closest seat to Home Plate	45 feet	46 feet	51 feet	48 feet
<b>Playing Field Dimensions</b>				
Left Field	339 feet	343 feet	325 feet	339 feet
Left Field Power Alley	377 feet	385 feet	389 feet	364 feet
Center Field	404 feet	408 feet	399 feet	399 feet
Right Field Power Alley	367 feet	367 feet	375 feet	421 feet
Right Field	328 feet	327 feet	320 feet	309 feet
Height of Outfield Walls	8 feet from left field foul pole to right center field; 23 feet from right center field to right field foul pole	7 feet from left field foul pole to right center field; 23 feet high in right field	8 feet from left field to center, with a 19 foot span that reached 11 feet high at its peak in left field; 25 feet high in right field	6 feet from left field foul line to center field; 10.5 feet from center field to right field power alley; 21 feet from right field power alley to right field foul line

\*Metrodome's Terrace Suites

New ballpark numbers subject to change.  
Existing ballpark numbers courtesy HOK Sport.



## Ballpark Timeline

### 2007

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#### April - June

Schematic design is unveiled  
 Development Agreement and Lease/Use Agreement is finalized  
 Complete site/infrastructure plan  
 Complete site assembly  
 Site clearing and utility relocations begin  
 County approval of schematic design  
 County issues bonds  
 County holds hearings on findings of environmental impact statement  
 County Board votes on EIS findings  
 Twins open Ballpark Marketing Center  
 Twins launch premium seating (private suites and club seats) sales

#### July – August

Groundbreaking ceremony  
 Site excavation and foundations of the ball park and bridges over 394 begin  
 Relocation of BNSF railroad

#### September - December

Start structure over newly relocated BNSF line  
 Start structure in Right Field

### 2008

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#### January - December

Steel and concrete install

### 2009

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#### January - June

Final concrete placement - Topping off celebration

#### July - December

Install playing field  
 Finish building enclosure

### 2010

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#### March-April

Ballpark construction is completed  
 Opening Day



## New Ballpark Project Team

### HOK Sport

HOK Sport's tradition of innovation has transformed the way fans experience the game of baseball. The firm conceived the design vocabulary used in today's ballparks and is charting an inventive course for tomorrow's venues. In the past 25 years, the firm has designed 14 new professional ballparks including Oriole Park, Jacobs Field, AT&T Park and PNC Park. Additionally, HOK Sport is designing new ballparks for the Mets, Yankees and Nationals as well as a renovation for the Royals' ballpark, Kauffman Stadium.

HOK Sport was founded in 1983 as the nation's first architecture firm dedicated to the design of sports facilities. Their architects and event managers are the world's finest and most experienced, drawing from the combined expertise of more than 825 projects with construction value exceeding \$14 billion. The company's client list is diverse and comprehensive, and includes 24 Major League Baseball franchises, 30 NFL franchises, 80 professional and civic arena clients, 40 soccer and rugby teams, 125 colleges and universities, 40 convention and performing arts center clients and 30 major events. With offices in Brisbane, London, Nashville, Denver and Kansas City, their reach is worldwide.

"The new Twins ballpark provides us with the opportunity to encourage everything that is good about urban living," said Earl Santee, AIA, HOK Sport senior principal leading the architectural effort. "Combining a transit-oriented site with a ballpark in the heart of the Warehouse District in a meaningful way will create an energetic new place for Twins fans to call home for years to come."

### Hammel, Green and Abrahamson Inc. (HGA)

Hammel, Green and Abrahamson Inc. (HGA) is a full service architecture, engineering and planning firm with a staff of 500 people. It is an employee-owned corporation with offices in Minneapolis and Rochester, Minn., Milwaukee, Wisc., and Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles, Calif. Headquartered just a few blocks from the ballpark, HGA has a reputation as a design leader and is ranked among nationally recognized firms in the architecture, engineering and planning professions. HGA has designed important buildings in both St. Paul and Minneapolis including the Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Public Radio, Orpheum and Pantages theatres, the Metrodome LRT Station, plaza and underground ramp as well as projects at the Mall of America and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International airport.

"HGA is honored and excited to be a part of this landmark project that links the traditions of baseball with transit, street life, and public spaces and is so important to our community," said Rebecca Greco, AIA, HGA principal.

### M. A. Mortenson Company

Mortenson, a family-owned business founded in Minneapolis in 1954, is the largest construction company in Minnesota. Since 1987 when it began building sports facilities, Mortenson has risen to become one of the top three national builders of sports facilities. Local sports experience includes Xcel Energy Center, Target Center, and University of Minnesota's Williams Arena renovation. National experience includes Coors Field and Pepsi Center in Denver, FedEx Forum in Memphis, Edward Jones Dome (formerly TWA Dome) in St. Louis, University of Iowa's Kinnick Stadium renovation, and Sprint Center in Kansas City. In addition to sports, the Minnesota office is involved in a wide variety of building types including corporate, cultural, healthcare, higher education, and hospitality. Mortenson is recognized for its ability to construct complex projects, its exceptionally high standard of craftsmanship and enduring quality, and its leadership in technology, sustainability and community participation.

"It is an honor to be selected to build the new Twins ballpark where Minnesotans will come together, once again, to celebrate outdoor baseball," said Ken Sorensen, vice president and general manager of the Minnesota office of M. A. Mortenson Company. "We have built signature sports facilities across the country, as well as here in Minnesota. Yet the opportunity to create another world-class professional sports center in our own backyard is a special privilege, and it comes with our unwavering commitment to making this project a success for all partners."



## Speaker Biographies

### Randy Johnson

#### Chair, Hennepin County Board

Commissioner Randy Johnson's district includes 160,000 people who live in the cities of Richfield, Bloomington, and Eden Prairie. He has chaired the County Board since 2004 and did so in 1997-2001. He was elected in 1978 and re-elected eight successive times, running without opposition in four elections.

Prior to his election, Commissioner Johnson was Assistant General Counsel at the Federal Election Commission in Washington, D.C.; an associate in the Faegre and Benson law firm in Minneapolis; legal assistant at the National Coal Board in London, England; and Legislative Assistant to Minnesota's first Commissioner of Human Rights.

Commissioner Johnson received a J.D. degree "cum laude" from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1974 where he was a member of the Law Review; and a B.A. degree in Political Science from Macalester College in St. Paul. He and his wife, Polly live in Bloomington. They have two daughters.

### Mike Opat

#### District 1 Commissioner, Hennepin County Board

Mike Opat is a member of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, the governing body for the largest county in Minnesota, with more than one million residents, and an annual budget of \$1.7 billion. The County Board approves the county budget and property tax levy, establishes policies for delivery of services, approves contracts, oversees operations and appoints key staff members.

Commissioner Opat was elected to the board for the first time in 1992 and has served from 1993 to the present, serving as Board Chair from 2001 through 2003. He represents a district of approximately 160,000 people, which includes parts of North Minneapolis and several northwest Minneapolis suburbs.

Commissioner Opat has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Public Policy degree from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. Commissioner Opat lives with his wife Kim and sons Lucas and Thomas and daughter Tessa in Robbinsdale.

### Steve Cramer

#### Chair, Minnesota Ballpark Authority

#### President and executive director of the nonprofit Project for Pride in Living

Mr. Cramer was a Minneapolis City Council member from 1984 to 1993. He worked for Project for Pride in Living from 1994 through 1999, serving as the director of housing and development, chief operating officer and finally president and executive director. Mr. Cramer served as director of the Minneapolis Community Development Agency from 1999 to February 2002 and as director of the Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit from February 2002 to August 2003, when he rejoined Project for Pride in Living.

Cramer was appointed to the Ballpark Authority by the Hennepin County Board.

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## **Jerry Bell**

### **President, Twins Inc.**

T. Geron (Jerry) Bell was named president of Twins Sports Inc. on November 26, 2002. In his position, he leads the effort to ensure the long-term viability of the Minnesota Twins and specifically oversees the development, design and construction of the new Twins ballpark in Minneapolis' Historic Warehouse District. In addition, Bell continues to serve as the Pohlad ownership group's liaison with Major League Baseball. Bell, who was named the third president of the Minnesota Twins in January 1987, spent 16 years as the chief executive of the club. He led the teams' business operations and was instrumental in the 1987 and 1991 World Championship seasons. Other accomplishments include setting an American League attendance record in 1988 when the Twins became the first junior-circuit team to attract more than three million fans. He also led the development and construction of the state-of-the-art spring training facility known as the Lee County Sports Complex, which opened in Fort Myers, Fla., in 1991. Bell joined the Twins after serving as executive director of the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, which operated the Metrodome. He joined the MSFC as assistant executive director upon the commission's inception in 1977.

Jerry and his wife, Phyllis live in North St. Paul and have two daughters.

## **Earl Santee, AIA**

### **Senior Principal, HOK Sport**

Earl Santee is the most experienced ballpark architect in the world. He has worked on 18 Major League Baseball stadiums and 40 minor league and spring training ballparks, including the successful completions of the New Busch Stadium, PNC Park, Minute Maid Park and Coors Field. He also is completing design for the New Yankee Stadium and the new DC Nationals ballpark. A 21-year veteran of HOK Sport, Santee has the ability to work with high profile clients, successfully translating their ideas into iconic ballparks beloved by their fans. As principal in charge of the new Twins ballpark, Earl will oversee all aspects of the project's design.

Santee received bachelor's degrees in architecture and environmental design from the University of Kansas. He is a registered architect and is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Council of Urban Economic Development and the Society of American Baseball Research. In 2004, he was named Sports Business Journal's Most Influential Person in Sports Facility Design and Development.

## **Bill Blanski**

### **Design Principal, Vice President, HGA Architects and Engineers**

Bill Blanski began his career as an architect at HGA Architects and Engineers almost 25 years ago. He hales from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in architecture and also did graduate work at Yale University where he received his master's degree. Bill is widely published and has numerous awards for his work done at HGA, most recent of which is a National AIA - *Modern Healthcare* Honor Award for the M.I.N.D. Institute at UC Davis in California. Bill was a recipient of both a State and National Young Architect's Citation for Design and also is a Rapson Traveling Fellowship Winner. Bill and his wife Nancy and their three children live in St Louis Park.

## **Ken Sorensen**

### **Vice President and General Manager, M. A. Mortenson Co.**

Ken joined Mortenson in 1985 as a project engineer. In 1987, Ken and John Wood, senior vice president, launched Mortenson's sports facilities focus. Since then, Ken has concentrated on major sports projects such as the Xcel Energy Center and University of Minnesota's Williams Arena/Sports Pavilion locally, and Sprint Center in Kansas City, University of Iowa Kinnick Stadium Renovation, Alerus Center in Grand Forks, and the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis. In 2006, Ken was promoted to vice president and general manager of Mortenson's Minnesota office where he leads the local operations. Ken brings more than 30 years of experience to the Minnesota Twins Ballpark project. He is a registered professional engineer and is extensively involved in the community.

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