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# Council unanimously approves Dodgers, Sox spring-training plan

**Carrie Watters**

The Arizona Republic

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GLENDALE - The City Council unanimously approved spring training accords on Tuesday, a major play in bringing the Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago White Sox to the West Valley in 2009.

Dodgers owner Frank McCourt attended the meeting with Sox caps and Dodger blue jackets for city officials.

"We're leaving a community where we had a wonderful relationship for 60 years," McCourt told the council. "We don't do that lightly."

McCourt said he was optimistic his team's run in Glendale would be for a similar duration.

The team has trained at Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Fla. since 1948, when the club hailed from Brooklyn.

The decision to move to Arizona will expand the Cactus League to 14 teams - 15 if the White Sox find a replacement team for Pima County to get out of its lease early. Goodyear signed agreements with the Cleveland Indians earlier this year.

Glendale council members showed mounds of paperwork a foot high as they praised staff and other partners for weaving through complicated negotiations, which have taken six months since tentative approvals were reached in 2006.

Mayor Elaine Scruggs and other officials reiterated the deal would not cost city taxpayers, as private development around the ballpark is planned to pay off the city's portion of the debt.

Now, other partners involved in the deal will get a chance at bat.

The Phoenix City Council will need to vote on an agreement to share tax revenue since the 15,000-seat ballpark will be on Glendale-owned land in west Phoenix.

The Arizona Sports & Tourism Authority, which tentatively committed up to two-thirds of the funding for the \$80.7 million facility, also will need to vote on agreements.

Among the deals approved by the Glendale council was a contract with HKS Architects. Groundbreaking on the site at 107th Avenue and Camelback Road will likely happen in September after all players have signed off on the deal.

Still, Glendale celebrated on Tuesday.

Resident Tom Traw said he remembers a time not long ago when sheep use to stop traffic in the city.

"It amazes me what has happened in the last few years and it seems like the last six months. It has just exploded in west Glendale," Traw said.

The city opened Jobing.com Arena with the Phoenix Coyotes in 2003 and University of Phoenix Stadium with the Arizona Cardinals in 2006. "I can hardly wait for February 2009," Councilman Phil Lieberman said.

Reach the reporter at (602... .

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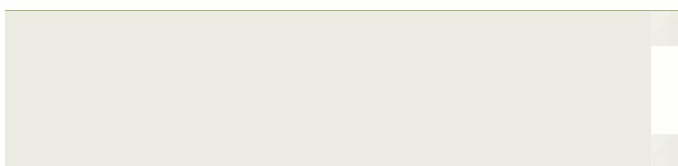
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with all the money the west valley is spending, that will be the highest taxed area of the valley.

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