

1 **January 03, 2000**

Proposed No.: 00-003

2 RESOLUTION NO. 306

3

4 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 36.100 RCW, as amended, the
5 Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District, hereinafter
6 referred to as the “District,” has been created and possesses all the powers of a public
7 facilities district; and

8 WHEREAS Tom Gibbs was appointed to the District Board in November, 1995
9 and has steadfastly led the District as Chair of the Board from January 1998 to January
10 2000 through the critical years of constructing and opening a Major League Baseball
11 Park; and

12 WHEREAS Tom is worthy of such commendation that it cannot fit within the
13 confines of traditional resolutions but rises to a level of heroic verse;

14 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
15 THE WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM PUBLIC
16 FACILITIES DISTRICT:

17 That the following poem be conferred upon Tom Gibbs in grateful appreciation for
18 his tireless service and innumerable contributions to the ballpark project as the District’s
19 second Chair of the Board from 1998 – 2000.

20

21 PASSED by a vote of 5 to 0 this 3rd day of January, 2000.

22

23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
24 WASHINGTON STATE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM
PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT

25

Robert Wallace, Chair

26

27 ATTEST:

28

Clerk

MIGHTY TOM AT THE BAT

It looked extremely rocky for the District and the team
To build the finest ballpark that the world had ever seen
In bitter cold they found themselves in a most distressful spot
Amid some worn-out railroad ties on an unpaved parking lot.

A straggling few got up to go, leaving there the rest
With that hope which springs eternal within the human breast
For they thought "If only the Court would take up the case against
The ballpark bonds we're sure that they would find in our defense."

For Joan preceded Tom putting all the work in place
To start construction on the park at a superhuman pace
And what a man to do it with an engineer's C.V.
Spiced with a passion for the sport, with its grace and history.

There was ease in Tom Gibb's manner as he stepped in to his seat
A calm rained on his colleagues as they knew this man could meet
Any challenge laid before him, any effort to destroy
This most wonderful of treasures for the people to enjoy.

Then from the gladdened multitude went up a joyous yell
When Griffey turned a spade of dirt the cheerful group could tell
That soon this spot would become the most hallowed of halls
A place where future legends would hit and catch baseballs.

Ten thousand eyes were on him as he led us through the fray
Of bogeys, bricks and trusses, pending deadlines every day
He was in there talking concrete slabs with each contractor's best
Of his skill and knowledge all who saw it clearly could attest.

He gave so freely of his time that for long he dare not tell
His good wife Jean that from his post at CH2MHill
He long ago had left and that now his hours did he
Fill with unpaid service to the WSMLBSPFD.

This included several Saturdays hosting every single crew
Of the country's mighty Navy and some college students too
Not to mention extra shifts he pulled, judging proposed art
A role where engineers will seldom play a part.

Yet on this like in all others Tom Gibbs he did excel
Holding tight to every deadline while all conflicts he did quell

He kept us all on target until that long-awaited day
The time we'd finally see our team take the field to play.

And when the Mariners uttered those words thought most taboo
"We want the people to pay their tab and pay for ours too"
Gibbs laid down his mighty foot and with thunderous voice did snap
"You gave your word, the cost is yours, the people's funds are capped."

While the praise of him is rarely told it is infinitely deserved
For not just what he did but for the manner in which he served
As our Chair, he was our rudder, our ever guiding light
With a smile and warmth and steady hand our loyalty he did ignite.

Though this ode resembles another to one who knows his verse
This one sports an ending that is fully the reverse
For while mighty Casey at the bat was entirely undone
Mighty Tom not only got a hit, he pounded a home run!