

29 September 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The contract for architectural services for the restoration of the Pullman Baseball Park in Butler was signed by the Owner on July 13, 2007. The Owner desired that the field would be available for the beginning of the season in March of 2008. The positive, expedited, fully focused execution of the Construction Drawings by Uhl Construction was the dominant factor that completed the project in a timely manner.

In order to meet the Client's schedule, the Architect recommended two important procedures that expedited the signing of the Construction Contract. First, the pre-selected contractors were required to attend weekly meetings with the Architect and Owner while the drawings were being created. This weekly review of the content of the drawings accomplished two goals. It provided feedback from the bidders concerning cost control and the Contractor's familiarity with the drawings resulted in a condensed bidding schedule. The second recommendation was to solicit bids without Code Review of the Drawings which saved two to eight weeks. The Owner fully understood at the time that any requirements made as a result of the Code Review would require Change Orders.

The Construction Contract was signed on September 27, 2007, just sixty days after the Drawings were started. Further, the Architect requested phased Plan Reviews for each discipline. This allowed a building permit to be issued for the Grading and Foundation which allowed work to proceed while the balance of the drawings could be reviewed. Although most of the Code Review was completed in late October, the Sprinkler Drawings were not reviewed until the end of the year.

This approach dictated that Uhl's foreman Dwight Heitzenrater not only had to contend with one of the most severe winter weathers in recent memory, but all work had to be scheduled around Code Approvals and subsequent permitting.

The Architect had recommended and the Owner approved that the actual playing field be bid separately so as to ensure that grass would be available in March. Mr. Heitzenrater had to ensure temporary water for the field, protect the playing field from activities such as the installation of caissons by his sub-contractors, as well as to protect the entire complex from access by the public all of which was an every day responsibility. The early onset of severe weather also limited the size of concrete pours.

The toilet and concession areas were designed in concrete to withstand abuse by the public. The balance of the building was designed as stick-build wood roof truss construction to facilitate winter construction. The metal roof was installed mid winter but the EIFS which was chosen for its insulating value was not installed until spring. The steel arch at the entrance was meant to be a retro statement expressing the industrial history of the site.

For this project delivering Shop Drawings to the Architect's office and picking up the reviewed documents the next afternoon was standard procedure.

Uhl Construction performed far above the standards expected of a General Contractor. The overall quality was good to excellent. Ligo Architects looks forward to our next project with Uhl Construction.

Sincerely,

N. Lee Ligo, AIA
Registered Architect

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