New assistant director appointed at Cajundome

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LAFAYETTE — Cajundome Director Greg Davis convinced members of the Cajundome Commission on Monday to appoint someone to help him with the added responsibilities a proposed convention center will bring to his job.

The commission's unanimous approval of an assistant director's position came four months after Davis negotiated a contract which would give him, upon completion of the convention center, a salary increase to run both the Cajundome arena and the center.

Following the meeting, Davis said he will appoint Pam DeVille, who has served as the Cajundome's marketing director for the past 10 years, as his assistant.

DeVille's primary job, which will pay $65,000 annually, will be to book the arena.

"Running the arena is our priority because that's what produces revenues," he said. "She's proven she has very good relationships with promoters and agents throughout the country."

DeVille will likely begin as assistant director today.

"I'm thrilled they supported Greg's recommendation and I look forward to helping him advance the Cajundome arena and new convention center," DeVille said.

Commissioner Bob Mashburn said Davis gave commissioners the impression in September, while they renegotiated Davis' seven-year contract, that he did not need an assistant director.

Davis, according to a clause in the contract, will receive a 10 percent salary increase when construction begins on the convention center, and another 10 percent raise when it opens. The increases were for him to operate both the arena and the convention center.

"What caused you to change your mind?" Mashburn asked Davis.

Davis said it was his understanding during the contract negotiations that there would be a need for a reorganization of the Cajundome once construction started on the convention center.

Davis said he saw two alternatives, including having a director for the arena and a director for the convention center, with two separate staffs, maintenance departments and promotion departments.

"That's the most costly way of reorganization," he said.

He described the "most cost-efficient way of reorganization" as having one director with its staff and various directors taking on additional workloads.

"This particular alternative would require an assistant director to run separate buildings without having separate directors," he explained.

Mashburn asked Davis if, "in lieu" of an assistant director, he would be willing to reconsider his contract "or that 20 percent" (in salary increases).

Davis said he was comfortable with his contract and did not see a need to revisit it.