

# Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee

(former Civic Center Committee)

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Alumni Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

- Attendees: Charlie Atwood; Burnie Allen; Art Dessureau; Rick Dente; Brent Gagne; Paula Dolan; Jon Valsangiacomo; Sue Higby
- Not in Attendance: Matt Flaherty
- Others in Attendance: Jim McWilliam; Tom Baker; Guy Norwood

Minutes for the December 11, 2024, meeting prepared by Sue Higby. Co-chair.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Charlie Atwood at 8:00 AM.

1. Minutes for the November 13, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Scribe Higby noted a minor date change that needed to be made (Walk-About took place on November 6, 2024). The minutes were approved, with a motion by Rick Dente, seconded by Paula Dolan and affirmed by the Committee.
2. Visitors and Communications – Guy Norwood, Recreation Director, Barre Town

The Committee invited Norwood to the meeting to talk about use of the facilities in Barre City and ways to collaborate effectively. In addition, the Committee asked about his priorities, some of which he discussed: Completing some renovations of ballfields; dealing with increasing vandalism (cameras will be installed in some locations).

**ACTION:** Follow-up on potential future collaborations, including attending a Barre Town Recreation Committee Meeting.

3. Civic Center Improvement Projects

Tom Baker reviewed recent repair projects, including: patching walls in the men's locker room (BOR); initial work/research on the stair treads at the entries to the AUD; research on masonry repairs required at the west end of Alumni Hall; window repairs. The boiler in the AUD is leaking (the return line); repairs are scheduled. The Committee expressed concern that funds from the Civic Center Improvement Fund were incorrectly used for a project that should be funded through Barre's capital budget. Further, the use of funds from the Civic Center Improvement Fund in the amount of approximately \$36,000 was not presented to the Committee for discussion/action.

**ACTION:** Repairs needed on tiles at the bottom of the Alumni Hall stairs and the floor of the Official's Room needs painting. The Committee requested Tom to inquire about organizing a future "Work Holiday" that would permit volunteers to do some light work on the facilities (such as painting).

**FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION:** Committee members discussed the need to re-emphasize that the use of the Civic Center Improvement Fund is promoted to donors and facilities users specifically as for use to do things that would not be supported via Barre's Capital Improvement Budget.

4. Congressional grant status

According to Tom Baker, the required Environmental Study still needs to be scheduled. Additionally, the Committee learned that grant funding recently received by Barre City (Municipal Energy Resilience Program grant (MERP) may be used for both the AUD and City Hall.

**ACTION:** Find out about the scheduling of the Environmental Study and subsequent steps needed to secure the Congressional funds for the AUD.

5. Charges for the Buildings and Facilities Committee

Discussion to clarify updates to the existing Committee Responsibilities summary took place.

**ACTION:** Sue Higby will update the summary she prepared for use in 2022 for the next Committee meeting.

6. Marketing Report – Jim McWilliam

Jim described his busy marketing work during November/December to secure renewals or new funding relationships for banners. He described the successful NU and Johnson match up and that the athletic directors are interested in returning next year (both men's and women's teams). In addition, he described plans for the Winter Solstice Event and expects a strong attendance.

**ACTION:** The Committee discussed the value of having an easel at the entrance of the AUD that describes restaurant/coffee shop opportunities in Barre. Jim will follow up with the Barre Partnership. This promotional approach will be discussed for other events, such as the upcoming Gun Show and the various Championship Matches, including the new wrestling tournaments. Expanding Promotions: The Committee would like to see these major events promoted via the Barre Partnership Instagram page and other Barre City social media pages.

The Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:35AM.