

Minutes: Civic Center Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Alumni Hall

Attendees: Burnie Allen; Charlie Atwood; Rick Dene; Art Dessureau; Paula Dolan; Brent Gagne; Sue Higby; Jon Valsangiacomo (*)

Absent: No committee members

Others in Attendance: Jeff Bergeron; Jim McWilliam; Bernadette Rose (via Zoom);

NOTE: (*) all were in person unless noted as “via Zoom”

Minutes for the January 10th meeting prepared by Sue Higby

1. The meeting was called to order by Art Dessureau at 8AM. Minutes from the December 13, 2022 meeting, prepared by Sue Higby, were accepted.
2. Visitors and Communications – none.
3. Congressional Earmark Funds:
Charlie led the discussion concerning the approximate \$3.4 million in earmark funds designated by Senator Sanders for AUD improvements, such as HVAC, electric upgrades and ADA issues. At present the timeline and matching requirement (40%) are being worked on. Art Dessureau pointed out the value of including the Team involved with the NU Senior Project to make the most of the funding.
4. City Committee re-organization:
Jon Valsangiacomo and Art Dessureau attended the recent public discussion held at City Council. Jon pointed out during the meeting that the Civic Center Committee was full and active. The attendees reported that there had been discussion of placing the ADA Committee in the Civic Center Committee. Sue Higby described an email summary of recommendations to Nicholas Storellicastro, City Mgr., and Jake Hemmerick, Mayor. Bernadette Rose stated the Council and Mgr. were receiving comments for a 30-day period. The Committee asked Higby to send her note to the full Council. Others were urged to send their comments about the “Committee Reset” to the Council. Training to use the Zoom equipment by Charlie Atwood, Paula Dolan, and Sue Higby was briefly discussed; this will happen later today (Jan. 10) at Chambers.
5. Norwich Senior Project – AUD:
Sue Higby discussed the meeting Prof. Kelley scheduled with 2 senior staff members from Efficiency VT the week before the holidays. Prof. Forcier will be including an energy audit and energy-conservation recommendations in the students work this winter season. She discussed a briefing on the NU Senior Project including Charlie Atwood and 2 Sen. Sanders’ outreach representatives on January 4. She discussed how the 2 NU Teams would be moving forward with the project, including designs submitted for consideration by the students, scheduled public meetings, and preparation of budget estimates, during this winter season. On Friday, Jan 13, there was a scheduled walk-about and intro to the Team of Art/Architecture students to the AUD project, led by the students involved in the first team (Construction/Engineering).

6. Jeff Bergeron discussed several major events at the complex held recently, including a Darn Tough employee event (discussion is taking place about holding the annual sock sale in Barre); Rock of Ages Employee Appreciation; 12th Night Medieval event; Mixed Martial Arts; Red Cross Blood Drive. The Governor's Ball will not take place in the complex. Early Feb (4/5), the Gun Show has blocked out the AUD and parking throughout the complex.
7. Jim McWilliam discussed his work on renewing expired sponsorship contracts; his work on the very minor banner/dasher vacancies in the AUD and BOR (only 1 available at each site!); and his strategic thinking on a new Winter Solstice HS basketball event (December/near the holidays).

Higby made a motion to adjourn; Brent Gagne seconded the motion, and the meeting concluded at 9:25AM.