

Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee

(former Civic Center Committee)

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Alumni Hall

Attendees: Burnie Allen; Charlie Atwood; Rick Dente; Art Dessureau; Paula Dolan; Brent Gagne; Sue Higby; Jon Valsangiacomo

Others in Attendance: Jeff Bergeron, Jim McWilliam; Representatives from BYSA

Minutes for the May 9, 2023, meeting prepared by Sue Higby.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03AM. The order of the agenda items was changed slightly to allow visitors to speak before the meeting minutes were discussed.

1. Visitors and Communications:

Four representatives from BYSA attended to discuss their interest in having a turf product purchased for use in the hockey rink in order to provide a practice surface during the non-ice season from March to November. They reported that Stowe and Rutland use a turf product for this purpose to generate revenue during the non-ice season. There is a positive public health benefit: The turf protects children and others from head injuries. The representatives described the turf as a self-sustaining investment. They described how their investment would be reflected in the fees they were charged for using the space. This turf product has been in use at UVM for 15 years; in Rutland the product has been in use for 10 years. The placement of the turf takes 6 hours with a team of 6 persons. Their goal: To obtain the turf by Aug/Sept. OR by next spring season. The representatives also mentioned that a “companion project” is a large space heater.

The BYSA is pledging \$50,000 to the project from the York Estate. They requested \$50,000 from Barre’s Building Improvement Fund.

- Both Jon Valsangiacomo and Sue Higby discussed interest in requesting funding from Barre Town for the project. BYSA responded they had a meeting scheduled later in the week.
- Others questioned where the turf would be stored. This is TBD.

2. Minutes from March 14, 2023

Meeting were discussed briefly. The following correction was made: Item 7. “Paula Dolan discussed potential handrail improvement needs in the bleachers of the AUD (the lower tier).” With this correction, Rick Dente made a motion to accept the minutes; Paul Dolan seconded the motion, and the minutes from March 14, 2023, were accepted.

3. B & F Committee Responsibility

With the new name given to the former Civic Center Committee comes potential new responsibilities. It is currently unclear what buildings and facilities fall under the Committee’s area of responsibility/what changes to the former Committee mission summary will take place.

4. Norwich AUD project Review

Sue Higby provided a brief description of the final presentation made by Norwich University students on April 14. She discussed the summaries, plans and other materials generated by the students and faculty and mentioned their use in pursuing future grants and other funds. Sue described Professor Kelley's stated interest in continuing to be involved and assist with the project. Professor Kelley met with Jeff and Sue on May 5. Sue briefly reminded the Committee of her discussion last year about developing a fund that attracts individual contributions, and that this type of fund would be potentially beneficial for the challenge grant needs.

5. Marketing Report – Jim McWilliam

Jim is working on the basketball tournament, including outreach with potential partners in NH. He is working on a HS tournament that would take place on December 23 (a Winter Solstice theme with 8 teams). Jim discussed his interest in scheduling a Sponsorship Appreciation Event; he mentioned a late of late August. Jim described his thoughts about a "Door Prize" that would provide free 1-2 sponsorships for banners.

- Jon suggested a different time of the year: Oct/Sept.
- Sue suggested keeping the event to a "thank you" event without providing a door prize(s) of free banners.
- Art made a motion, which was supported by the Committee, to provide up to \$3,000 for the Sponsor's Event.

6. Staff Reports - Jeff Bergeron

Jeff discussed upcoming engagements and potential activities with VTRANS; Darn Tough; Montpelier Recreation; Mixed Martial Arts. He discussed ongoing painting projects. Additionally, he mentioned the potential donation of 20-30 sturdy wooden tables from Mutuo. Currently, there are 150 plastic tables (rectangular) available; Jeff is pricing out round tables for potential future purchase.

Sue Higby asked about the status of the Building Improvement Fund. According to Jeff, the Building Improvement Fund has an account balance of \$191,111.

7. Executive Session

Jon Valsangiacomo made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Rick Dente seconded the motion and the Committee supported going into Executive Session. The Committee invited staff member Jeff Bergeron to sit in on the meeting.

Art Dessureau made a motion to end the Executive Session; Rick Dente seconded the motion. The Committee agreed to end the session.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 9:35AM.