

Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee

(former Civic Center Committee)

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024

Alumni Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

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

Absent: Jon Valsangiacomo;

Others in Attendance: Nicolas Storrellicastro; Jeff Bergeron; Jim McWilliams; John Crossley (Barre Town Recreation); Stephanie Quaranta (Barre City Recreation)

Minutes for the January 10, 2024, meeting prepared by Sue Higby

The meeting was called to order at 8:05AM.

1. Minutes for the December 13, 2023 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved, with a motion by Burnie Allen and affirmed by others.
2. The Committee introduced John Crossley and Stephanie Quaranta as invitees for the Visitors/Communications part of the meeting. The discussion focused on future collaborations, plans for the near-term, and increased use of the BOR with the addition of the new turf.

-Areas for future work are: Develop cancellation policies for the new turf; expand use of turf beyond traditional athletics for youths to include a mix of ages (e.g., include elders) and abilities; increase its use through an expanded publicity campaign.

3. Facility Improvements

The Committee discussed the recent turf purchase with funding from the Facilities Improvement Fund and other resources. The Committee discussed other facility improvements on the list, including the potential for: fresh exterior paint; front entrance overhang (look at ceiling – is it brass?); steps towards using recommendations of NU study for AUD improvement (commitment of \$100,000 from Facilities Improvement Fund for earmark match); roof repairs at the BOR.

Point persons for the next steps: Jeff Bergeron and City Manager Storrellicastro

4. Earmark Funding

Manager Storrellicastro has been in contact with the USDA contact person for the earmark funding, concerning the plan and match requirement. The response back was characterized as, given the problems associated with flood recovery in Barre, “don’t worry about it.” He noted that the Town Meeting Day was moved to May and there is

more time to consider budget issues. After the city budget is prepared, bonding capacity can be calculated. According to the manager, there are 3 major items: public works building; garage; the AUD.

Discussion took place concerning whether there were any restrictions on the matching requirements (apparently, federal funding may be used for the match); the use of funds from the Vermont Bond Bank vs. USDA funds (Vermont Bond Bank has better terms); and where the infrastructure funding has been expended. The manager noted that assistance with grant opportunities would be appreciated.

Higby needed to leave the meeting at 9:15AM. The following information should be appended to these minutes.

5. Marketing Report – Jim McWilliams
6. Buildings & Facilities – Jeff Bergeron

The meeting concluded at 9:30AM.