

Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee

(former Civic Center Committee)

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Alumni Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

- Attendees: Charlie Atwood; Burnie Allen; Paula Dolan; Art Dessureau; Brent Gagne; Jon Valsangiacomo; Sue Higby
- Not in Attendance: Rick Dente
- Others in Attendance: Rikk Taft; Jim McWilliam

Minutes for the May 8, 2024, meeting prepared by Sue Higby

The meeting was called to order by Chair Charlie Atwood at 8:04AM.

1. Minutes for the April 10, 2024 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved, with a motion by Jon Valsangiacomo and affirmed by others.
2. Visitors and Communications – Charlie Atwood has reached out to various athletic directors to schedule their attendance; to responses yet.
3. Civic Center Improvement Projects

The Committee discussed key (short-term) projects, which include:

-Bathroom updates: paint, mirrors, wastebaskets;

-AUD stairs and locker room stairs repaired;

-Broken tiles fixed;

-Exterior paint on Alumni Hall;

-South side railing repaired;

-The awning of the AUD will be reviewed carefully (is the original surface brass or some other decorative metal that should be preserved?) The awning will be re-painted.

- Rikk has done a complete survey of facility needs at the BOR (he will distribute this information to Committee members).
- Sue will meet with Rikk to describe the scope of the AUD review conducted by the Norwich University faculty and students.
- Rikk described that he was examining the scope of the AUD Earmark project, based on the proposal submitted; there was discussion at Council concerning moving forward on the HVAC/Electric updates with a lesser amount of the match requirement (\$500,000). This positions Barre for obtaining the full Earmark.
- In addition, Rikk is working on a summary of the emergency issues/needs for the facilities.

4. Civic Ctr Financial Review

- Revenues & activities need to increase. Discussion included looking for federal stop-gap funding, as the Civic Center Complex rebuilds its activities calendar/schedule, following closures caused by COVID and the major flood last year.

- Sue discussed the high number of performance venues around the country that continue to be on an attendance re-building phase, post COVID. As a result, these venues have received several rounds of the “Save Our Stages” funding. The Committee discussed the importance/need of a grants manager position.
- With Jeff Bergeron’s recent retirement, Rikk will be taking on the management of facilities full-time for the near-term. The Committee offered its assistance during this interim period as staff adjustments are made.

5. Marketing Report

- Jim described his activities, including publishing a major advertisement in the Times Argus and in the World that provides public acknowledgement for the various sponsors. Apparently, the World made an error with the first ad and published a second, larger ad free of charge.
- Winter Solstice event – Jim is working to increase the number of participating schools.
- Jim will be working on identifying new expos and events.

John Valsangiacomo made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Brent Gagne seconded, and the group concurred. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20AM.