

Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee

(former Civic Center Committee)

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Alumni Hall

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

Absent: Burnie Allen; Jon Valsangiacomo

Others in Attendance: Jeff Bergeron, Jim McWilliam

Minutes for the June 13, 2023, meeting prepared by Sue Higby.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03AM. The order of the agenda items was changed slightly. The topic "Aud Heating system review and schedule" was changed to topic #3.

NOTE: The Committee was unable to use the Zoom option or record the meeting.

1. Visitors and Communications:

None. The committee discussed potentially changing the timing of the monthly Tuesday morning meeting (this time slot is used for the regular Department Head meeting/some are unable to attend the Committee meeting for this reason).

2. Minutes from May 9, 2023

Art Dessureau made a motion to accept the minutes; Brent Gagne seconded the motion. Minutes from the May 9th meeting were accepted as presented.

3. AUD Heating

Boiler #2 does not function and has not for some time. Jeff is reviewing different systems with the group recommended by Norwich University. Jeff is examining a 2-fuel (propane/oil) option that would be a building block purchase for future upgrades to the HVAC system overall. The radiators will not be changed at the same time. The estimate is \$100,000, paid via the City's Buildings Fund.

4. Earmark Funds review and requirements.

The matching component for Barre has been confirmed to be \$2.8 million. Jeff described the potential of a no-interest loan from the Department of Agriculture. The proposed contract with the state of Vermont for using the hockey rink as a temporary shelter for the unhoused was mentioned as a potential financial resource.

The Committee discussed the importance of scheduling a meeting to discuss the strategy to obtain funds qualifying for the match. Charlie will reach out to Nicolas and Jake to schedule a special meeting (last week of June/first week of July).

Sue suggested making a pledge of at least \$100,000 from the Building Improvement Fund, to be paid at the conclusion of the grant period.

5. Buildings & facilities revenue/expenditure summaries for 2022-23

Charlie distributed the “Civic Center/BOR Fund Summary” (updated 6/7/23) for discussion. Sue requested information about the percentage of key senior staff salary expenditures associated with the buildings/facilities in discussion.

6. Usage of the BOR

- a. **Homeless Shelter:** Several commented about being blind-sided by the topic and asked for additional information. At present, the building is receiving investments to make electric, plumbing, safety/fire code improvements that prepare the building for its potential use as a summer shelter. Approximately \$61,000 will be expended for this purpose. The state understands the expectation by Barre City that there would be 24/7 security and custodial support and repairs. The potential move in date is July 1. There would be “pods” or stall-like spaces made from fabric to create living spaces for people. There may be no congregation in the area during daytime hours. There could be up to 380 people using the space; however, it appears that more realistically there would be 30-40 people using the space.

The camps for children have been moved to Barre City schools. There is only one other scheduled activity, a basketball camp for children.

- b. **Turf Field:** At the last meeting, representatives from the BYSA had mentioned they hoped to have the turf in place by August. Given the potential use of the space as temporary summer shelter space, that deadline is not on the table. Storage options were discussed briefly.

The Committee is waiting to see what level of investment for the turf is being pledged by Barre Town; in addition, the Committee needs further information about the fee expectations for various users/investors.

Finally, the Committee discussed that the Recreation Department needs to support an investment in the Turf Field.

7. Marketing Report – Jim

Jim McWilliam discussed marketing. He recently placed a thank you advertisement in the *Times Argus* and *The World*; he mailed a tear sheet to supporters; The Barre Granite Assn. Basketball Classic will be postponed this year; there is growing interest in the Winter Solstice Event involving high school teams. (Jim noted that 20% of the door will go to the HS involved.)

8. Staff Report – Jeff

Jeff spoke briefly about the painting project in the Connector and Alumni Hall, preparations for potential use of the BOR as a temporary shelter; potential use of the building by Central VT Career Center (rain date for graduation), and Police Department Training.

9. Executive Session

Sue Higby made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Brent Gagne seconded the motion and the Committee supported going into Executive Session.

The Committee invited staff member Jeff Bergeron to sit in on the meeting.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 9:40AM.