

Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee

(former Civic Center Committee)

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Alumni Hall

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

Absent: There were no committee member absences.

Others in Attendance: Jeff Bergeron; Jim McWilliams

Minutes for the August 9, 2023, meeting prepared by Sue Higby

1. Visitors and communications:

None took place.

2. Minutes for the June 13, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Valsangiacomo made a motion to approve the minutes; Dessureau seconded his motion. The minutes were approved.

3. Earmark Funds Planning

An extension was granted beyond the earlier deadline of September 30 to provide funding and other details about the AUD project. City Manager Storrellicastro will be the point person on obtaining the new deadline. It was discussed that Barre City should revisit the availability of potential matching funds via the Emergency Management Group.

4. Facility Improvements:

The AUD has been functioning with one boiler, and plans existed to systematically replace this system; however, at this time the plan is to attempt to use the current single boiler (and a “re-rope” process) to move through the 2023/24 winter season.

At this time, the Building Improvement Fund has \$201,316, of which \$100,000 will be used towards the matching fund for the Earmark funds.

5. BOR Usage

There is general consensus that the committee is positive towards the turf proposal for the BOR that would extend the use of the facility to year-round. More details on the proposed funding arrangement with BYSA/Barre Town will be provided to the committee. (Currently summer charges are low at about \$25/hours; the fee structure with the turf would be increased; however public schools/BYSA would have a lower rate structure.) The calendar would remain the same for ice making, approximately to being mid-October.

Flood Use Update: Approximately 267 people resided at the AUD for shelter at its peak usage. There were waves of households in need, including people from Berlin, the north end of Barre, downtown Barre, Williamstown, the Berlin trailer park. The animal rescue/flood team departed from the BOR, which was used for a shelter for animals, the previous Sunday.

6. Meeting Date Switch

The Committee discussed changing from its second Tuesday meeting habit to the second Wednesday of each month, starting at 8AM. Dessureau made a motion to meet on Wednesdays moving forward; Dente seconded the motion and the motion was accepted.

7. Marketing Report – Jim

There will be a High School Winter Solstice match scheduled for the Saturday before Christmas involving 4 schools: Hazen Union, Montpelier, People's Academy, Spaulding. Jim is working on merchandise. The previously discussed College Team Match will not happen this year.

There are many renewals for banners/dashers scheduled for Sept/October. The committee suggested moving ahead on the renewal schedule as in previous years.

Next Meeting: The Committee will review the list of business supporters and discuss strategies.

The Sponsor Appreciation Event will be scheduled later in the fall season, a date to be determined.

8. Jeff will send out a list of scheduled events in the facilities via email.

The Heritage Festival takes place Sept. 22-25.

9. The Executive Session was postponed.