

# **Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee**

(former Civic Center Committee)

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Alumni Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

- Attendees: Charlie Atwood; Burnie Allen; Art Dessureau; Rick Dente; Matt Flaherty; Paula Dolan; Jon Valsangiacomo; Sue Higby
- Not in Attendance: Brent Gagne
- Others in Attendance: Jim McWilliam; Tom Baker; Mike Hulbert; Mitch Kerin

Minutes for the January 8, 2025, meeting prepared by Sue Higby. Co-chair.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Charlie Atwood at 8:01 AM.

1. Minutes for the December 11, 2024 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved, with a motion by Rick Dente, seconded by Paula Dolan and affirmed by the Committee.
2. Visitors and Communications – Mike Hulbert; Mitch Kerin, BYSA
  - The committee discussed replacement costs for the recently obtained turf, used in the BOR, and whether enough funds were being raised.
  - They have offered to assist with marketing and promotions of turf use and would potentially like to have a subcommittee that supports this effort. The key dates for using the turf are March through early May (wet fields). Some dates have been blocked out for show use (e.g., MMA)
  - Turf Storage was discussed. It remains stacked in the corner of the BOR.
  - Mike Hulbert mentioned an interest in pursuing the purchase of a drinking/bottle-filling station for the building.

## **ACTIONS:**

- The Committee should be receiving quarterly revenue/expenditure summaries. The Committee is interested in obtaining a separate line in the summary detailing funds obtained/used for replacement costs associated with the turf.
- Because Barre City continues to have no staff leadership for what was called the Recreation Department, it has been suggested that the short-term plan is to reach out to other Recreation Departments. The Committee discussed the importance of securing staff leadership, even on a part-time basis, for recreational initiatives.
- A tarp needs to be placed over the stack of turf pieces and perhaps rodent traps need to be used in the area.
- A schedule for nets/batting cage equipment use needs to be set up for ease of use and breakdown. Perhaps group together clusters of activities to make more efficient use of the space.

### 3. Charges for the Buildings and Facilities Committee

- The Committee reviewed the draft (1/3/25) summary of Charges for the Committee and made no changes. (See attachment)  
Rick Dente made a motion to approve the Charges for the Committee. Paula Dolan seconded. The Committee unanimously approved the 1/3/25 summary of Charges for the Committee.

### 4. Barre Town Collaboration – Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The event, to take place inside the AUD/BOR buildings instead of outdoors, is scheduled for April 19.

Art Dessureau made a motion to waive the fee for using the buildings for this collaboration; Paula Dolan seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously supported this.

**ACTION:** The Committee discussed the benefits of other future collaborations with Barre Town Recreation, with special consideration of programs for youths and seniors. Jon Valsangiacomo will attend a future Barre Town Recreation Meeting and report back to the Committee.

### 5. Civic Center Improvement Projects

Tom Baker provided a general update: The stand heaters were replaced in the BOR; he is obtaining an estimate for window repairs; Dubois/King is working on preliminary estimates for a/c and heating upgrades in the AUD using heat pumps; the engineering study will be sent to Freeman/French, the architectural firm that designed the AUD, to discuss the scope of the Congressionally funded work.

**ACTION:** The Committee discussed the need to be involved in future discussions about increases in fees for property uses. In addition, the Committee discussed the requirement to have consistency in pricing. The Committee requested information about the terms being discussed with the new semi-pro basketball team, the Coyotes, that would be using the AUD for its home base.

### 6. Congressional Grant Status

See above report by Tom Baker for work associated with obtaining estimates for AUD repairs.

**ACTION:** No report was made concerning the required environmental study, the necessary next step in obtaining the funds.

### 7. Marketing Report

Jim McWilliam provided a comprehensive report on the Winter Solstice event, which involved 6 teams. According to him, all the teams are interested in returning. (Currently,

schools receive 50% of gate receipts; approximately \$4,000 was secured from event. Burnie Allen and Jim McWilliam attended a recent City Council meeting to provide a brief report about the event.

There was discussion about the need to have a new ball rack, which could be obtained via the Civic Center Improvement Fund.

**ACTION:**

- Art Dessureau made a motion to allocate up to \$750 for the purchase of a new ball rack with sign, Rick seconded his motion and the Committee supported this action.
- The Committee remains concerned about the use of the Civic Center Improvement Fund and is requesting an accounting of the Fund on a regular basis.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEM:**

- Matt Flaherty requested for a future discussion: Electronic file storage in order to better manage information about this Committee and other City entities.

The Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:34AM.