

Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee

(former Civic Center Committee)

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Alumni Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

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

Minutes for the November 13, 2024, meeting prepared by Sue Higby. Co-chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Charlie Atwood at 8:02AM.

1. Minutes for the October 9, 2024 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved, with a motion by Art Dessureau, seconded by Rick Dente and affirmed by the Committee.
2. Visitors and Communications – None
3. Walk-Around Review (Took place on November 6, 2025)

Much of the time was spent at the BOR. Major projects discussed include: Replacement of roof, pipes under floor, lighting. Historic wooden signs have historical information; however, this could be summarized elsewhere and Jim could make use of premium space for sales.

The items anticipated as not covered by Congressional Funds include: Floor upkeep; entrance improvements (paint removed/brass refurbished); examine way to provide water supply for janitorial work in order to remove slop sink from the accessible restroom; repair the steps to the AUD (high priority).

ACTION: Re-initiate a dated spread sheet for both short- and long-term needs of the buildings on the Hill. Identify the work to be covered by the Congressional Funds. Begin tracking at the next meeting.

4. Congressional grant status

Manager Storrellicastro provided an update. Before receiving the grant, Barre needs to complete an environmental review for the space. (Required by U.S.D.A.) According to Storrellicastro, the environmental review has not been scheduled; however, he anticipates some time between January and March, 2025.

Storrellicastro mentioned a grant (MERP Grant in the amount of \$250,000) that may be used in part for the AUD (50-50 distribution with City Hall). This may be used for energy efficiency investments (heating/lighting).

Priorities for the Congressional Grant are: electric updates, HVAC system.

Tom and Storrellicastro will be the project managers.

ACTION: The Committee requested a regular report on the progress towards performing on the Congressional Grant to make essential improvements at the AUD. **(Please send a written report in advance of scheduled Committee Meetings.)**

5. Charges for the Bldgs and Facilities Committee

According to Charlie, a request has been made to edit the current description of Committee responsibilities. In order to begin this process, the Committee asked some basic questions of Manager Storellicastro, including: What does he see the City needing? Will there be a Recreational Programs Director, following the recent retirement of Stephanie? What is the desired scope – beyond the buildings on the hill – for the Committee? Why was the Committee name change recommended (what was the vision)?

ACTION: The Committee will draft a new, revised summary. In advance of this new summary, the Committee has requested a Job Description from Tom Baker. (The Committee's charge corresponds with the work of Tom Baker.)

6. Marketing Report – Jim

Jim described positive banner/dasher sales and new use of space. He also described the on-going Chair Project (sponsored by NSB). Apparently, NSB has requested additional chairs to a part of the project.

The Winter Solstice (Jan 3-4) now involves 6 scheduled games.

Future potential project: New signage and/or improved and easily understood name for the BOR.

The Committee briefly discussed the importance of an active, current digital on Main Street for marketing the Hill. Information needs to be shared with Tom and Manager Storellicastro, who are responsible for the Digital Sign.

Discussion focused on how recent staffing changes, postponed rehiring a key position, and essential work on the buildings are adding to the challenges of promoting the Hill buildings.

ACTION: The Committee and others need to promote use of the buildings up on the hill. When possible, the Committee needs to identify, and potentially work towards, funding opportunities for facilities improvements.

The Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:25AM.

