

April 2026 Minutes: Meeting-Thursday Apr 30th-Noon RGCC

The meeting was called to order by President Chris Terry. Other board members present: Joe Powers, Pat Sexton, Chad Behnken, and Becca Tesch. Kelly Nowicki and Doug Holton were present via phone. Director Marshall Behrens was present.

Feb/March minutes were reviewed. Sexton moved to approve, Tesch seconded and all articles passed unanimously. April to date financials and statement of activities was presented and discussed. There were no financial transactions other than normal foundation business expenses to note. Powers moved approve, Behnken seconded and all articles passed unanimously.

The board held a discussion as to the future of the advisory board and the critical role it plays in the Foundation's plan. Potential new members were discussed and the board agreed that a plan would be put in place as well as a strategy to engage the advisory board enacted. At this time Behrens will engage interest from advisory members and a stronger plan and commitment ask from the board would come in the near future. Behrens was asked to monitor and continue discussion.

Behrens presented an update of the Rochester Outdoor Sports complex. Grading is underway for the site and beginning to take shape. Discussion from the April 27 City Council study session regarded the sports complex and the pivot away from RCTC expansion options. A reported community feedback survey showed strong interest in winter dome/turf use, pickleball, walking, open gym, and improved public awareness of available facilities. The new pivot involved moving away from RCTC as well as a year-round mega dome at a new site. Key considerations included lease length, cost, third-party operations, and potential impacts to the existing indoor facility plan. There was discussion on funding viability for the "megadome" at the complex site as well as at a minimum grading needed to occur to allow for future expansion. Behrens provided discussion about knowledge of current facility awareness and use are low at RCTC, focus for MNSCU is to remain financially stable academically as well as skyrocketing costs to maintain the dome that the college will not shoulder. For the facility to remain viable, there needs to be private and or city intervention. The board noted the mega-dome concept could significantly affect facility design and management plans.

Behrens provided an update on the Rochester Curling Clubs advancement to build and support a facility to suit curling needs in SEMN and host regional and national events. The RCC is in talks with the city to put the facility at Gamehaven park, which is city owned park space directly to the south of the new outdoor complex. RCC leadership shared a proforma and business plan with the board and the board agreed to remain connected to and support the project as well as engage to assist as needed. The raising of capitol by RCC to build the facility will be paramount as the land use agreement is reached with the city.

Behrens provided an update on a meeting with Mayo Civic Center Director of Events and Production, Jerimiah Van De Steeg at Mayo Civic Center and Legends Events owned by Jerry Jones of the Dallas Cowboys which books and attracts entertainment to MCC. There is awareness that large acts are reluctant to come to MCC due to aging infrastructure, rigging, and the venue. Behrens and Vand De Steeg desire to put a proposal together to approach MCC and Legends entertainment to progress what needs to be done to increase viability of MCC. The board noted that there would need to be increased buy in and commitment of the chamber of commerce, the city and the visitors bureau as well as DMC in order for this to occur. The board also noted there was a previous plan in place to revitalize space at MCC and this could potentially be revisited. It will be key for all entities discussed above to unite in order for this to occur.

New business consisted of supporting the above initiatives and meeting adjourned at 1:22 PM.
Respectfully submitted-Marshall Behrens- Director