

Rochester Sports Foundation Board Meeting

Minutes (3-28-24)

The meeting was called to order by Carole Shulman at 12:04 PM. Board members Becca Tesch, Pat Sexton, Kelly Nowicki, Chad Behnken and Joe Powers were present. Doug Holtan and Chris Terry were absent. Staff member Ed Hruska was also in attendance.

The February RSF minutes were reviewed by the board. Powers moved to approve, Nowicki seconded and they passed. Hruska reviewed the March SOA reports. Powers moved, Nowicki seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Hruska went over the Directors Report. He had numerous details regarding the RSRC which would be discussed as an agenda item later in the meeting. Next, he went over the 2024 funding and reported that RSF recently received a \$50K grant from Mayo Clinic to continue the effort to assist with the planning and development of the facilities per leadership's direction. In addition, there is a \$25K funding agreement in the hands of Rochester Sports leadership for their review. It has been the goal of RSF to establish sustainable funding for the overall stability of the organization. Hruska then updated the group on the arena and fast pitch softball projects. He gave an update on web site traffic and added that more on this will be discussed later in the meeting. Finally, he reported how RSF is assisting Rochester Sports in their effort to land the opportunity to be a co-host city for the

The group reviewed details from the Feb RSF meeting as shared by project leader Ben Boldt of the Rochester Sports and Recreation Complex (RSRC) in detail to further determine involvement and direction moving forward. Since that update Boldt did clarify to Hruska that he would fully expect RSF to be involved in the design of the complex. Boldt shared they will have more public engagement during that time and having RSF provide input will be important during that phase. He also expected the planning phase for the operator will also include involvement with RSF. Shulman asked about the activity to date on the RFP. There were questions about the process and what if there is limited response. Nowicki asked about the ability for the complex area to add and further develop. Powers emphasized that we only get one chance to do this right - flexibility of the complex is critical.

Social media outsources was discussed in order to drive more traffic to the web site and allow us to focus on content. Powers warned about managing the traffic if it is interactive. It was agreed we would try to find an outside option to assist us with social media.

Tesch updated the group on the RS funding request. It has not been presented to the RS Board but will be in April. It was suggested we update Marshall in advance. Shulman noted that the stable funding for the organization is critical. Hruska noted we want to work in step with RS but we need to look to secure some stability.

The group discussed the recent actions of the arena effort. Sexton updated some items too regarding the various players and effort. We will ask Shjon to get involved to assist us with this.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 PM

Next meeting date: Tuesday June 18th, 2024 at Noon