

Rochester Sports Foundation Annual Board Meeting Minutes (12-5-24)

The meeting was called to order by Chris Terry at 4:12 PM. Board members Carole Shulman, Becca Tesch, Pat Sexton, Chris Terry, Joe Powers and Chad Behnken and were present with Kelly Nowicki & Doug Holtan absent. Advisory members Marshall Behrens, Ben Boldt, Steve Strickland and Andrew Davick along with RSF staff Ed Hruska were also present.

The October RSF minutes, 2025 Budget (reviewed at 10-31-24 meeting) and SOA were previously reviewed via email by the board. Shulman moved to approve, Behnken seconded and they passed unanimously. Hruska reviewed the October SOA reports. Powers moved, Behnken seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Hruska noted the RSF had an 86% attendance rate in 2024 which is remarkable when considering busy schedules and other duties. He thanked the Board for their dedication over the past year. Terry also thanked the Advisory Committee members for their dedication. Behrens commented that if the Board had any additional ways to get them involved – please ask.

The group reviewed the recommended RSF officers for 2025. Sexton moved, Behnken seconded and it passed unanimously.

Hruska reviewed the Sports Banquet auction items collected to date. Bob Brown was unable to donate items so he donated cash - which was very generous. Behrens updated the group on the details of the event. Sexton asked about where the proceeds go and Hruska updated them on the \$10,000 raised annually is being handed out the night of the auction. Hruska shared the four groups being awarded the grants this year and what those dollars will be used for.

Boldt gave a detailed update on the progress of the Rochester Sports and Recreation Complex (RSRC). There were several questions from the board members that were discussed. It was agreed the effort should be made by RSF/RS to meet with the new local leaders and help educate them on the impacts of what a strong sports market can do in attracting the sports tourism dollars. He stated the project will cost more than the dollars collected. Shulman pointed out that it seems best to attempt to raise the other dollars needed first versus cutting back the project. Powers agreed. Hruska noted he had visited with several local businesses that have expressed an interest in naming rights for this facility.

Boldt had to leave and there was further discussion. Sexton stated that it is critical that the hotel folks and hospitality industry need to band together to state how important this facility is to sports tourism market and why assuring it is designed to maximize attracting major tournaments is critical. Tesch agreed and stated she can pull together the major property owners to work with us in getting that message across. More discussion occurred.

Terry stated he would share his “vision for the future” at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM

Next meeting date: Thursday, January 31st at RGCC