

# **Rochester Sports Foundation Board Meeting Minutes (5-8-25)**

The meeting was called to order by Chris Terry at 12:05 PM. Board members Kelly Nowicki, Chad Behnken, Doug Holtan (via phone), Carole Shulman, Becca Tesch, Pat Sexton and along with staff Ed Hruska were present. and Chris Terry absent. Matt Esau was an invited guest. Joe Powers and Pat Sexton were absent.

The March Meeting minutes were reviewed. (Note: there was no April meeting due to schedule conflicts so that meeting was moved to May 8<sup>th</sup>). With no comments or corrections Shulman moved, Tesch seconded and they were passed unanimously. Hruska reviewed the March SOA to date. There were no questions – Nowicki moved, Tesch seconded and it passed unanimously.

Earlier the group discussed the Experience Rochester Annual meeting and how that helped city leaders understand tourism/economic impact. Tesch noted it would be wise if we had more representation at events like that. Nowicki questioned if we have prepared talking points to share critical items for leadership. Hruska stated that the PowerPoint we will review later should address this concern.

Hruska updated the group on the RSRC Design Community Group meetings. After we shared a lot of feedback after meeting one we did not have any additional comments to provide. He shared he was approached by the Chamber to submit both of our comments from session one directly to Administration and Council. The main theme of this was to emphasize both our focus points on minimizing sales tax dollar expenditures on non-revenue generating amenities and saving funds for Phase 2 of the project. He shared the cover letter Ryan from the Chamber had written up. The board unanimously agreed to partnering on this communication.

As far as the future involvement of RSRC the group mentioned Ben Boldt stated he would get back to us to clarify our role – which had not been done as of this meeting. It was agreed RSF would focus on other projects until it received some direction from the City. Esau noted that he has shared concern over bookings and operations of the facility to understand their role and has heard nothing. He suggested RS & RSF lay out an overall operation and management plan for RSRC.

Hruska reviewed the sports tourism PowerPoint and welcomed input. This effort is a Rochester Sports & Sports Foundation partnership to be shared to city leadership and hopefully help them to understand the value sports tourism brings to the community.

Hruska updated the group on a new Curling facility planned for Rochester. The group has asked to share their project with us at the June meeting. The group was fully supportive so Ed will coordinate with them for June.

Chris updated the group on the progress for the succession plan to replace Ed by year-end based on his retirement. He reviewed the time line as an update.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 PM

**Next meeting date: Tuesday, June 24th at RGCC**