

Rochester Sports Foundation Board Meeting Minutes (9-26-24)

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

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

Hruska reviewed the Directors Report and updated the group on some activities such as the Rochester Sports sponsored RSRC site tour. A trolley full of local sports leaders were shuttled to all three sites and updated on the various sites by Scot Ramsey of the City. It was a good experience of interacting and getting updated on the progress of the planned complex. He also shared the IRS filing is completed but not officially in hand yet – it should be in the next few weeks. He added that he has begun to work on the 2025 Mayo Grant also.

Hruska shared with the group the latest progress and action on the RSRC. This included several of the details in the recent draft of the OVG/SA Market Study. There was discussion about the City considering eliminating the IBM site and how we could perhaps assist in keeping that option alive. It was determined we would attempt to reach out to IRG to try and assist in making them aware of the pending action by the City. Hruska added that there is a timeline to have the purchase agreement to the Council for consideration by 12/9/24. Powers questioned why the hurry? Behnken added that negotiations take time to work out. Powers added the Seneca site needs a tremendous amount of infrastructure added to make it work. The feedback from the site tour group felt the Badger Farms property was in the middle of the corn fields and would not be a success if selected.

Hruska also added that there are several outside groups that are interested in being involved in the project. Boldt had shared with Hruska that he plans to do an RFQ to determine who is serious about involvement before the design begins. Overall Hruska recapped that the progress is moving forward well and on schedule. Nowicki asked about why the study reflects a seasonal dome versus permanent turf field indoors – she felt it was the wrong direction. All agreed stating that this was not what was presented to the community during the sales tax vote. Hruska replied that he the city felt there was not enough funding to cover it. Shulman added that when there are not enough

funds for a project logic would say you try to find additional funding – which Hruska replied that he felt they were doing. Powers added that they need to create the vision with more renderings to get people’s buy in. It would be a way to get more partners involved. Hruska added that it helps but may be difficult to draw up the design vision without knowing the funding limit. Holtan added it would get more outsiders involved if it reflected a direct community benefit. Hruska added that as they proceed with the design they need to know who is with them and that they have able funding. Powers again added that the vision is key to getting others involved and that if we can reflect this is a true gem – something that will assist Rochester in recruiting and retaining employees – it will get much more attention and support. The group reiterated that they DO NOT support the temporary dome piece of the report. It was sold with indoor turf – not a bubble.

The RSF Grant applications were reviewed. There were four requests totaling \$10,000 which will be announced at the February 2nd, 2025 Sports banquet – where the checks will be awarded. Hruska and Tesch updated thee group on some changes for the 2025 Banquet

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM

Next meeting date: Thursday, October 31st, 2024 at Noon