

# **Rochester Sports Foundation Board Meeting Minutes (10-31-24)**

The meeting was called to order by Carole Shulman at 12:02 PM. Board members Shulman, Becca Tesch, Kelly Nowicki, Pat Sexton, Joe Powers and Chad Behnken and were present with Doug Holtan and Chris Terry present via phone. RSF staff Ed Hruska was also present.

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

Hruska reviewed the Directors Report and updated the group on a variety of items including the purchase of a new lap top and software, web site marketing proposal, grant check distribution schedule, grant request efforts and noted that TEAM 25 has agreed to be title sponsor of the sports banquet auction. There was some discussion on what type of items are most desired for the auction.

The group reviewed the Board of Directors nominations as well as the officer positions. Powers made the motion to maintain the slate of officers as they currently are, Sexton seconded and it passed unanimously to forward this to the Annual Meeting for formal action.

Hruska shared the concept of the Rochester Area Hall of Fame being a part of the newly proposed RSRC

with the group. He has introduced the idea to the OVG and City folks – based on our organization's

experience on the site visits of seeing this in other facilities and feeling it added character to those

facilities. Shulman stated she loves the idea and has seen this in sites she has visited. Hruska stated he

feels if we don't step up and do it – it may not get done. Kelly noted incorporating the local sports groups

(such as RUSH soccer) would be valued. Tesch added the Quarterbacks Club has their plaques in a hall

at her hotel now. The group was very supportive of us moving forward with it. Powers mentioned a place

called Legends that noted sports stars from way back – maybe we can recover that too.

Hruska briefed the group on the proposed 2025 Annual Budget and noted a few changes from the

previous year. He addressed a few questions and the group okayed it to move forward to the Annual

Meeting. He then went over the proposed meeting dates for 2025 and asked for feedback. Behnken noted

more dates may be needed based on how things proceed with RSRC. The group approved the dates.

The group discussed the latest progress and action on the RSRC. There is a consensus concern over the

lack of effort in trying to obtain the IBM site – which RSF had previously recommended it unanimously

as the preferred site. Sexton added some comments regarding the negotiations between the City and

IRG. He felt perhaps we could act as a mediator in the process. There is also concern that the timeline to

complete the site decision is not giving the proper time for reasonable negotiations. Terry noted the City

wanted to go directly to a development agreement before they even negotiated – he noted you do not

negotiate a development agreement in 30 days – it almost always takes 3-6 months. Nowicki stated she

would support us doing all we can to push the IBM site forward...Tesch agreed. Terry noted it is probably

a \$100M project and they should be trying to maximize capital before cutting back the project. Powers

asked where is the community input on this project? Hruska added there may be a need for another

meeting on this following the election.

The RSF Grant applications were reviewed. There were four requests totaling \$10,000 which will be

announced at the February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 Sports banquet – where the checks will be awarded. Hruska and

Tesch updated the group on some changes for the 2025 Banquet

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 PM

**Next meeting date: Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM at Hubbell House (Annual Meeting)**