

# **Rochester Sports Foundation Board Meeting Minutes (1-30-25)**

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

The December Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed. With no comments or corrections Sexton moved, Behnken seconded and they were passed unanimously. Hruska reviewed how he closed out the 2024 financials and transferred it to 2025. He also reviewed the 2025 SOA to date. He also provided a five-year summary of the Investment account activity for them to review. Sexton asked if we should consider the CD's. Hruska will run it by Bremer Investment and get back to the Board.

Hruska went over the Directors Report – which provided updates on the Mayo Grant, IRS Filing and web site. He also had comments on the 2025 priorities for the group to discuss later in the meeting. Nowicki asked if we maybe need to re-survey the local sports groups to get an up-to-date needs assessment. Perhaps use the data that Sports Academy collected as a base point. Tesch added that she would like to see our group stay higher level of planning and let the Park Dept deal with the parks and smaller needs.

Boldt gave a detailed update on the progress of the Rochester Sports and Recreation Complex (RSRC) and the recommended action coming up at the next City Council meeting. He explained the three items for the Council in detail. Terry asked about the timeline....within a couple months they would have the concept finalized and hope to break ground by the end of 2025....opening in 2027. Sexton asked about the “regional Playground” stating he had never heard of that before. Nowicki asked how they are dealing with not providing the indoor facility as was advertised to the community? Boldt agreed he shares that feeling but costs have gone way up so they weighed out building the indoor/outdoor complex half each but felt it did not meet the needs of either vision. They will then identify the gap and work to fill that. Powers added that he feels there is a bigger need for the indoor space than the outdoor and asked what the hurry is? He stated that if we need to wait 3-4 years to build it right – why not?

Boldt clarified that they want to build this entire facility the right way so it has the greatest impact and greatest benefit to the community. He shared several strategies they are applying to do so. Hruska asked how we can assist in moving forward? Boldt replied assisting in exploring the additional funding sources from private partners as

well as public advocacy would be appreciated. Holtan added that he feels it is disappointing to have the site selection AND the programming are linked together right now and questions the rush. He feels having both these decisions released at the same time was an error in strategy and communication. The group thanked Ben for attending and updating the group.

Chris brought up the need to start work on a new RSF Director search as Hruska will be done at year's end.

Hruska updated the group on the Sports Banquet as the event nears (Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>). He shared the auction is all set and that we should reach the \$10,000 goal. RSF has two tables and will be hosting the grant recipients as well as awarding them their checks during the banquet.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM

**Next meeting date: Thursday, February 27th at RGCC**