

Rochester Sports Foundation Board Meeting Minutes (7-30-24)

The meeting was called to order by Chris Terry at 12:04 PM. Board members Carole Shulman, Becca Tesch, Chad Behnken and Pat Sexton were present. Doug Holtan, and Kelly Nowicki via phone and Joe Powers was absent. RSF staff Ed Hruska was also present. Advisory Committee members Marshall Behrens, Sheila Kiscaden, John McGuine. Marcus Sherels, Steve Strickland and Andrew Davick were also in attendance.

The June RSF minutes were reviewed by the board. Sexton moved to approve, Shulman seconded and they passed. Hruska reviewed the July SOA reports. Sexton moved, Behnken seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. There was no Directors Report.

Terry noted we would have a call from Matt Lashoff from OVG calling in for a RSRC update. The group reviewed the RSRC questions that were submitted by the RSF members that included Ben's replies. Hruska shared that he participated in the "kick-off" meeting with OVG and the City team on July 18th and that the contract agreement between them was officially signed. He also updated them on the upcoming actions of OVG and Sports Academy.

Matt Lashoff, the Director of Business Development for OVG called in and was put on speaker so the group could listen. He went through the role that his organization would be doing including the overall operations of the facility – once it opens. However, he shared they would also play a role in the development of the facility, its revenue generating, and emphasized building strong relationships with the local sports groups. He shared it is their goal to come in and be the best partner they can possibly be. He then updated the group on the strategic partnership they have developed with Sports Academy – who is a sports specific group that focuses on betterment of the programming, performance of the athletes and coaches within the complex. This will add to the volume and the quality of the users in the new facility. The question on who and how they will build the operations staff was asked to Matt. He shared it is a community asset and such the staff will be hired primarily local but may bring in some executive leader – such as a GM. Anna Rosburg is their project lead for this facility.

As the group reviewed the Q&A Terry and McGuine added they felt the process they are taking with the design services and project manager are wise. Kiscaden asked about private investment – Hruska replied he feels the City would welcome it. She asked if the Council is thinking more futuristic? Sexton added we should ask Matt if they will be trying to leverage the private investment to make the facility more robust and desirable. Nowicki noted inside space for soccer/others is in demand. Kiscaden asked about how much of the \$65M was projected for the indoor and outdoor portion on the complex? Shulman added that naming rights could secure more revenue to enhance the facility.

In going over the questions the subject of the site selection came up and there was discussion on which of the three final sites the group supports and why? Nowicki stated she felt the IBM site was the best based on the need to build up that area as it is somewhat the heart of the community – something that is vibrant and visible, revitalize that area and give the tax payers a new amenity

that is active and robust with great access for all (on the public busline). Having a digital board informing the community on upcoming events and advertising to the masses that go by daily. Having the fields visible to locals and guests will create community pride. The potential extension of 37th street to West Circle Drive will add some much-needed development to an area that has not changed for decades. Nowicki added the numerous tournament travelers from the metro will also find this location desirable. Terry reviewed all three sites with the group and it was agreed they unanimously supported the IBM site as the future location of RSRC.

Hruska went over the details of the recent City/RSF site visit with the group. All sites were discussed by the group and points noted.

Hruska stated RSF will continue to do mid-monthly updates on RSRC to the web site. Chad Behnken was recently highlighted on the site.

The Grant Application was reviewed and discussed. The deadline for these grants will be September so Hruska encouraged the group to get this information to area groups. He added that the funds of this come from the sports banquet so reminded the group to keep looking for auction items. He also highlighted future meeting dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM

Next meeting date: Tuesday August 27th, 2024 at Noon