

Rochester Sports Foundation Board Meeting Minutes (10-26-23)

The meeting was called to order by Chris Terry at 12:02 PM. Board members: Becca Tesch, Chad Behnken, Carole Shulman, Patrick Sexton and Joe Powers were present. Doug Holtan was present via phone. Advisory members John McGuine, Marshall Behrens, Ben Boldt, Sheila Kiscaden and Cyle Erie were in attendance. Staff member Ed Hruska was also in attendance.

The September meeting minutes were reviewed by the board. Powers moved to approve, Shulman seconded and they passed. Hruska reviewed the State of Activities (SOA) with some discussion. He noted that we will be reviewing the 2023/2024 Budget at the end of the meeting and bring that to the Annual Meeting in December. Powers moved, Tesch seconded and it was approved.

Hruska reviewed the PP slides with the group which focused on the Rochester Sports and Recreation Complex (RSRC) as part of the sales tax extension vote on Nov 7th. He shared the actions of the Vote Yes committee to date. He showed slides of the social media efforts and the targeted strategy. Sexton added the strategy is to “narrow cast” this. Powers asked about fundraising. Hruska added that the group appears to be on budget for the campaign.

Hruska went over the things all can do down the stretch to help get the vote through as well as next steps if it passes or fails. Kiscaden asked if the City was open to the Public/Private Partnerships with this project. Boldt shared the discussions to date regarding this with the group. Hruska added that whatever the options are it will be up to the Council to decide what path is eventually taken. Kiscaden added that it might be important to show examples of how these PPP's work well to City leadership.

Powers added that we really need to get the people out to vote in support of the RSRC. Behnken asked if we have informational sheets to share with the groups. Powers added that he feels the community has been educated but now we need to motivate them to get out and vote. He added that if the community wants this complex they need to vote yes and if it fails that any new sports complex consideration will be many years from now – so if they want it they must vote now. Behrens added that the Chamber's one-pager with a few bullet points on why this is needed could be sent to the groups and ask they send it on to their membership. Hruska said he will do this. Tesch added she has printed it out and has circulated it to all their staff at their properties.

Next Hruska reviewed the upcoming Sports Banquet with the group and went over RSF role with the event – which is to run the auction during the January 15th event. He asked if each board/advisory member could help secure one auction item each to get to the goal of sixty.

The details of the Annual meeting were discussed and agreed to it being held at the Hubbell House on December 7th. Hruska reminded the group that the Annual Budget and Election of 2024 Officers will be done. All Board and Advisory members will be invited.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM

Annual Meeting: December 7th, 2023 (4:00 PM)

Next Board Meeting: January 11th, 2024 (noon)