

Rochester Sports Foundation Board Meeting

Minutes (3-27-25)

The meeting was called to order by Carole Shulman at 12:02 PM. Board members Shulman, Becca Tesch, Pat Sexton and Joe Powers along with staff Ed Hruska were present. Kelly Nowicki, Chad Behnken, Doug Holtan and Chris Terry absent. Marshall Behrens, John McGuine and Ben Boldt were present as Advisory members.

The February Meeting minutes were reviewed. With no comments or corrections Powers moved, Sexton seconded and they were passed unanimously. Hruska reviewed the February SOA to date. There were no questions – Powers moved, Sexton seconded and it passed unanimously.

The recent Chamber/City/RSF meeting was discussed. Sexton asked some questions regarding the summary notes. Operations/management were discussed with several valid points brought up. Boldt shared the City Council (CC) has gotten all the documents on RSRC at a recent study session. It was felt we should meet with them in small groups and share the Powerpoint Hruska has put together with our data. Hruska will bring it to the April meeting for RSF members to review and discuss. Powers added the hotel and economic impact is huge and should be shared with the community and CC. McGuine stated we should ask Zelms what she wants us to do – Behrens added that we are ready to do what is asked. The group agreed but felt we should clearly understand our role in moving forward. Boldt stated they are not sure if he/they can do that. Sexton added that he is very interested in being a partner on the project but is concerned we have no say in what the project is or will be. Boldt agreed clarity is important but disagrees we have not had a say in the progress to date. Hruska added that we were also the only one who testified at the State Capital to get the sales tax through. Powers added that it is great that we are building a facility that is no where in the Midwest – it should have a huge impact. Behrens added the uniqueness of Rochester's business model (empty hotels on weekends) should be shared.

Next Hruska shared the City is hosting three upcoming city work groups meeting. Boldt gave a rundown of the group and mission.

Carole shared that Chris reached out to her to assist him and Ed in the process of finding the next Director. The smaller group will report back to the full board. The timeline was shared with the group. RSF hopes to have someone identified by October.

Next the Board/Advisory Committee (AC) make up of RSF was discussed. Behrens stated he felt the AC aspect of things go well but is open to do more if asked. McGuine

stated he wouldn't mind being a full board member – he sees the value in this group. Tesch stated she feels RSF should be more involved in the business public sector – maybe buy a table at an event of something to that effect. Sexton likes the AC as a secondary piece of the organization – he feels it is a great place for future board members as he did. Boldt felt having electeds involved was important too. Powers added he prefers a smaller group for effectiveness. He also likes Ben's point of having elected officials onboard. He added that if they are not reacting we should consider replacing them. Hruska stated he values everyone that is a part of the RSF group and wants to treat them all respectfully. He added there are not bylaws that apply to the Advisory group. Hruska asked if we might want to simply make all the meetings open to all AC members – the group It was agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM

Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 24th at RGCC