

# **Rochester Sports Foundation Board Meeting Minutes (6-24-25)**

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

The May Meeting minutes were reviewed. With no comments or corrections Sexton moved, Powers seconded and they were passed unanimously. Hruska reviewed the March SOA to date. There were no questions – Powers moved, Shulman seconded and it passed unanimously. Hruska noted RSF is receiving a \$500 donation.

Kaisey Ackerman and Tyler Despina from Curling Club of Rochester (CCR) presented to the group regarding a new six-sheet dedicated curling facility they hope to build in Rochester. They went through the slide deck and answered questions. RSF expressed that they are willing to assist with this private/public partnership as it advances forward. Their next step is to work with the City on a feasibility study for the Soldiers Field location. Once a location is determined they will move forward with a capital campaign to raise the \$4-7M needed for the facility.

Boldt updated the group on the Rochester Sports and Recreation complex. Hruska shared, at a recent meeting with the city leadership team and RSF folks and that the direction on RSF involvement moving forward was to continue community education of the benefits of sports tourism. Boldt added he wants to keep an open line of communication with the two groups – that he feels it is a benefit to the city. Hruska added that RSF recently added an article to their web site on the booming youth baseball aspect of sports tourism in support of the new complex direction. Boldt updated the group on the development schedule moving forward with hopes of opening in early summer of 2027.

Hruska updated the group on the PP presentations to city leadership. Several meetings have been held and are scheduled. Feedback has been very positive. He will send it to all Advisory members.

Chris updated the group on the progress for the succession plan to replace Ed by year-end based on his retirement. The group reviewed the job description and press release. Megan will send the PR on Chris's request. The deadline for applicants is August 24<sup>th</sup> so the BoD can review them at the Aug 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Terry reviewed the time line and entire process up to the hire. Sexton added that as we bring in a new leader it makes

sense to refocus on direction moving forward. Hruska recommended a summit-type meeting with Rochester Sports and RSF to determine how we can best work together in the future. Behrens agreed – he feels it is two-fold to work closely with RS as well as push the future development of sports facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM

**Next meeting date: Tuesday, July 22nd at RGCC**