

Rochester Sports Foundation

Board Meeting Minutes (8-26-25)

The meeting was called to order by Chris Terry at 12:08 PM. Board members Terry, Joe Powers, Carole Shulman, Kelly Nowicki, Chad Behnken, Becca Tesch and staff Ed Hruska were present with Doug Holtan joining via phone. Pat Sexton was absent.

The July meeting minutes were reviewed. With no comments or corrections Powers moved, Shulman seconded and they were passed unanimously. Hruska reviewed the July SOA to date. There were no questions – Tesch moved, Behnken seconded and it passed unanimously.

The group reviewed the applicants for the Director job. Discussion continued about the interview process moving forward. The group suggested questions to be considered for the interview. Ed and Carole were going to collect the questions. Powers recommended we have a series of questions that are consistently asked to be fair and easier compare the two candidates replies.

Next the group discussed the RCTC sports bubble and its future after a release of information that it may not be erected in the future. Hruska stated that the entire sports complex solution may be to incorporate all the facilities including the RCTC properties and new RSRC. The board felt it was critical we get involved as this facility has a strong demand for community users. Hruska felt financial solutions are there if the proper management and revenue tactics were in place. In recent discussion with Gary Neumann – Park Board Chair – Gary shared that the City has appointed a team to work on this without anyone from RSF. Powers stated that resolving this issue should be a priority – everyone agree. Nowicki stated we need to help the users of this facility to be heard on the problems if the facility is not open in the future. Terry stated it simply needs a good master plan around this facility and it will prevail. Shulman recommended we add it to the agenda for the September RS/RSF group meeting to thoroughly discuss options for solutions.

Hruska updated the group on his Rochester leadership meetings. Overall the majority of the councilmembers are supportive of sports tourism and our current effort to maintain and grow the business. He noted CC Palmer, Friederichs, Wahl, Miller and Schubring are all supportive of our mission and if/when we run into them – please thank them for this support. Terry updated the group on a recent meeting he and Joe had with CC Keane and Wahl. He stated they were both supportive of the new RSRC and sports tourism in general.

The Grant Program was discussed. There was discussion on the growing need for quality umpires for baseball, softball and all other sports. Hruska suggested we consider some type of feeder/development program for training umpires/referees with the grant funds rather than giving it away. This will be added to the agenda for the RS/RSF meeting in September along with RCTC bubble, selling the RSRC, relationships with local sports groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 PM

Next meeting date: RS/RSF Summit on Thursday, September 25th at Mayo Civic Center