

ARENA ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

8:00 A.M.

Roll Call

Present: Mike Gfroerer; Joe Farrelly; Dan Arndt; Chris Brown; Councilor Gail Matson; Councilor Zandra Rice-Hawkins; General Services Director Chip Chesley; Public Properties Superintendent Jay Burgess; Arena & Properties Manager Jeff Bardwell

Absent: Nick Wallner, Gerry Blanchette

Guest: Concord Youth Hockey Treasurer/Program Director Wes Riley

Meeting called to order at 8:05 AM

Roller Skating Program Wrap Up

Jeff Bardwell gave an overview of the 2021 Roller Skating Program. This season has been the most successful since the arena started the program in 2016. Each year we have tweaked the program based on feedback from the skaters. In 2021 the program grossed \$16,947 up over \$5,500 from 2019. Mike Gfroerer asked what the cost is to run the program, Jeff Bardwell explained the program cost are about \$6,000 which is mostly labor. Another contributing factor to the program's success is the set up. Three quarters of the rink boards are installed, there are picnic tables for dining, skate rentals, lights and music. Jeff Bardwell also recognized Wes Riley who each year has donated his DJ equipment and additional lighting and time spent training arena staff on the equipment. All of the above gives the atmosphere of a true roller rink. The arena also received a donation of skate rentals from the Enfield Roller Rink which closed in 2019. The Enfield Rink was the last year-round roller rink left in New Hampshire. Dan Arndt asked what was the closest roller rink, Jeff Bardwell responded that the roller rink in Tyngsboro was the closest. Mike Gfroerer asked if there were ever any injuries during roller skating, Jeff Bardwell responded that yes there have been injuries, most involving just ice packs. Dan Arndt asked if participants had to sign a waiver, Jeff Bardwell responded that they do not, the arena has signage at the entrance indicating the dangers and risk. Mike Gfroerer asked if the city solicitor was consulted on the signage, Jeff Bardwell responded that yes, the solicitor had reviewed.

Events Update

All the promoters of the events in August were very satisfied with turnout at their event after coming back from a year off due to the COVID19 pandemic. The Gem & Mineral Show had the best attendance they ever had this year. Spring events are all confirmed except for Kiwanis, Roller Derby and a potential fund raiser on Memorial Day Weekend.

Skate Board Committee

Gail Matson gave an update on the skate board park meeting that was held September 7th. The skate board group seems to be well organized and has a good cross section of representation. They are looking at other parks besides Kiwanis for the new skate park location. The current foot print of the skate park is 15,000 SF and they are looking to double that size. The group is working on obtaining their 501C and received a check at the meeting from a realty company to help get the 501C established. They are planning a fund raiser for October 9th but as of September 27th they have not completed their event application for the City's Code Division.

Project Updates

Jay Burgess updated the committee that the shingle roof replacement project is complete. A1 Roofing completed the project in July despite the amount of rain days they had to work around. Mike Gfroerer asked if the roof was stripped down to the wood decking before replacement. Jay Burgess explained that both layers of shingles were removed and any damage to the roof decking was repaired.

Jeff Bardwell updated the committee on the HWH replacement with condensing boilers. The project is 99% complete and staff is working on receiving the final billing from NPI. Once received staff will follow up on the energy rebate which is approximately \$15,000. The installation of the new boilers has also improved the quality of the ice at the arena as they can produce the recommended temperature of 140 degrees for ice resurfacing.

Jeff Bardwell updated the committee on the compressor replacement project. Staff has met with the engineers from American Refrigeration Company who will be preparing the specifications for the RFP that will go out in November with work planned for the spring of 2022. Dan Arndt asked if the new compressors would be more efficient, Jeff Bardwell explained that they would as the existing compressors run at full capacity when they are on regardless of the load demand. The new compressors have the ability to unload two cylinders as the heat load decreases. Staff has also met with Resilient Building Group about potential rebates that may be available. Once we have the equipment specifications we will know what rebates the City will receive. Mike Gfroerer asked what the costs of the projects are and how are they being paid. Jeff Bardwell explained that the roof project is \$195,000; the HWH replacement with condensing boilers is \$95,000 and the compressor replacement is \$215,000. All three projects are currently bonded and being charged to the Arena Fund. Dan Arndt asked what equipment was left for replacement after these projects. Jeff Bardwell explained that the dehumidifier is scheduled for FY2025 and the condenser is scheduled for FY2027.

Jay Burgess updated the committee on the arena addition status. The master plan funding is currently in the Parks & Recreation CIP in FY2024. General Services staff is suggesting to move it up to FY2023. Jay Burgess is meeting with RPAC in mid-November to request this item be moved up and that the arena addition portion that is completed be accepted into the masterplan. Discussion took place on the timing of the project and other projects such as the widening of I93, the Greenway Trail and the replacement of the Loudon Road bridge. Gail Matson made a motion to get RPAC's concurrence that the Arena portion that is completed be accepted into the masterplan and to move the funding up from FY2024 to FY2023. Chris Brown 2nd the motion, there was no further discussion, motion passed 6-0. If RPAC endorses the motion Jay Burgess will draft a report to council.

Gail Matson made a motion to adjourn, Chris Brown 2nd, motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey R. Bardwell, Arena & Properties Manager