

ARENA ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 1, 2022 Everett Arena 8:00 AM

Roll Call

Present: Chairman Nick Wallner; Mike Gfroerer; Councilor Zandra Rice-Hawkins; Jeff Cain; Joe Farrelly; Dan Arndt; Chris Brown; Public Properties Superintendent Jay Burgess; Arena & Properties Manager Jeff Bardwell

Absent: Councilor Gail Matson

Guests: Granite State Roller Derby Treasurer Claire Gruenfelder

Meeting called to order at 8:05

Public Skate Policy

Committee members reviewed the draft Public Skate Policy that City Solicitor Jim Kennedy and Attorney James Ziegler from the Disability Rights Center – NH edited. Jeff Cain made a motion to accept the edited policy, Zandra Rice-Hawkins seconded the motion, there was no discussion motion passed unanimously.

FY2024 Fees & Other Revenue Opportunities

The Arena Manager briefed the committee on the forecasted electric rates that will go into effect in January of 2024 at which point the arena realize a 53% increase. This translates to an approximate \$13,000 increase in the FY2024 budget and a \$26,000 increase for FY2025 budget above the arena current budgeted amount of \$47,600. Discussion took place on the energy savings measures that have been put in place since 2006. Dan Arndt inquired about solar panels, the arena manager explained this has been looked at in the past and was not deemed cost effective but we could revisit to see if changes in technology and utility rates would make it viable.

Discussion took place on current fees, staff recommends a slightly higher rate increase for FY2024 fees to help absorb the increased energy cost. Mike Gfroerer made a motion to approve the recommended rates by staff, Joe Farrelly seconded the motion, there was no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

The arena manager explained that staff is always looking for additional revenue opportunities for the arena and presented a proposal to offer table and chair rental to the non-ice events that take place at the arena. This would involve the purchase of enough tables and chairs to satisfy the current events held at the arena and two storage containers that would be on site only during the non-ice season. Discussion took place of the pros and cons of getting into the table and chair rental business. Revenue from existing customers would be approximately \$14,000, the arena could offer set up and breakdown for an additional fee. Mike Gfroerer expressed concerns of competing with private businesses that supply this service. The arena manager explained that this would need to go through the budget process and be approved by the city administration and city council. Zandra Rice-Hawkins made a motion to pursue the table and chair rental plan, Dan Arndt seconded the motion, there was no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Master Plan Update

Public Properties Superintendent, Jay Burgess updated the committee on the Kiwanis Park Master Plan status. VHB Engineering was hired to develop the master plan in conjunction with park stakeholders and public input. An onsite visit was conducted a few weeks ago and there will be a series of meetings starting in January to develop the plan. This project includes the connection of the Greenway Trail from Terrill Park to Kiwanis Park. Discussion took place on process and development plan.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey R. Bardwell
Arena & Properties Manager