

ARENA ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 6, 2023 Everett Arena 8:00 AM

Roll Call

Present: Chairman Nick Wallner; Councilor Zandra Rice-Hawkins; Jeff Cain; Joe Farrelly; Dan Arndt; Councilor Gail Matson; General Services Director Chip Chesley; Public Properties Superintendent Jay Burgess; Arena & Properties Manager Jeff Bardwell

Absent: Mike Gfroerer; Chris Brown

Guests: Granite State Roller Derby Treasurer Claire Gruenfelder; Jed Merrow

Meeting called to order at 8:05

Ice Season Wrap Up

The Arena Manager briefed the committee on the ice-skating season that ended March 19th. Public Skating numbers are up and school groups are beginning to return with field trips since the end of COVID. The arena hosted the Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament March 17 – 19 and everything went very well. A job well done by Chris Brown, Joe Shoemaker, Dan Arndt and the rest of the Black Ice Team. Dan Arndt mentioned that the arena staff did a great job as well and that Black Ice wishes to keep the arena dates as a back up for the future.

Discussion took place on reserving the ice at the arena the end of January, the Arena Manager explained this would be challenging as it is in the heart of the youth hockey and high school season.

Operationally things went well through the season. Two issues developed at the end of the ice season. A bearing in the motor of one of the compressors started to fail. Adjustments were made to the programming so the arena finished the ice season running on the other compressor. The motor will be sent out for repairs this spring. A brine leak developed the first week of March on the 8" return line in the compressor room. After compressor shutdown the insulation was cut back to assess the leak. Brine was pumped from the piping to storage tanks to stop the leak until repairs can be completed.

Off Season Events

The ice-skating season ended March 19th and arena staff performed a quick change over for the event season that started March 25th. All weekends are full through the spring except for the Book Show that takes place the first Sunday in June that cancelled due to the promoter's health issues. The Roller-Skating Program was moved up a week and will begin May 31st and run through July 30th. Granite State Roller Derby is back practicing and will be hosting bouts since the three year break due to COVID. Three shows are scheduled for August and then back to ice-skating operations on September 5th.

Right to Know Law Training

The city solicitor's office will be conducting training for Boards and Committees on how to conduct a public meeting on May 9th from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the City Auditorium. Part of the training will include the city's code of ethics. The solicitor's office encourages everyone to attend.

Budget

The arena revenue is up from the budgeted amount due to increases in Public Skating, Snack Bar and Pro Shop sales. Ice rental revenue is slightly down due to the loss of one adult league. Expenses are also up in part time labor due to the increases in wages that took place after the budget was finalized last spring. The arena's final position will be determined on the cost of the brine leak repair.

Kiwanis Park Master Plan Update

There was a public meeting on the master plan the end of February that several committee members attended. There was a large representation from the Skate Park and Concord Crew supporters. The engineering firm VHB took the input from the meeting and created a draft plan. Staff reviewed the plan a few weeks ago and there will be a second public meeting in April or May. Committee members and arena patrons are encouraged to attend to

give their input. Public Properties Superintendent, Jay Burgess updated the committee on the elements of the draft plan. The skate park was moved to the south east corner of the property and increasing the size to 30,000 square feet. Green spaces were added where the existing skate park exists and the area adjacent to it along with a small playground. Parking has shifted from the east and north to the north and west. Discussion took place on the connection to the Greenway Trail. Staff will update the committee when a date set for the next public meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey R. Bardwell
Arena & Properties Manager