

Winnebago County Regional Tourism Facility Board

# **W C R T F B**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Indoor Sports Center: 8800 E. Riverside Blvd., Rockford, Illinois

**Tuesday, November 4, 2014**

### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Winnebago County Tourism Facility Board was called to order by Chairman Ian Linnabary at 1:35 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Jerry Bolin, Mr. Steve Chapman (proxy for Chairman Scott Christiansen,) Mayor David Krienke, Mayor Darryl Lindberg, Commissioner Ian Linnabary, Mr. Jim Ryan (proxy for Mayor Larry Morrissey), Mayor Alice Schoonover, Mr. Darrell Snorek.

Absent: Mayor Dale Adams, Mr. Jim Wise (resigned.)

### **Welcome**

Mr. Linnabary greeted members and guests, and introduced fellow Commissioner Julie Elliott.

### **Public Comment**

There were no guests who wished to address the Board.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Motion** by Mr. Lindberg, seconded by Mr. Chapman, that the Board **approve** the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of August 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- B. 2015 Regular Meeting Schedule

**Approved** 8-0-2 (93.9%) by voice vote.

### **Reclaiming First Project Updates**

Downtown Sportscore on the Rock: Mr. Ryan informed the Board that demolition costs came in under budget. He added that should the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (**IDNR**) be willing to accept ownership of the adjacent ComEd dam, the City would maintain it, and the site could be graded for parking or a boat launch.

Mr. Matt Vitner thanked the Rockford Park District (**RPD**) for their partnership in developing this turnkey facility. Demolition of the former school building will begin once the letter of release is received from the state historical society, and bids are out for construction.

Sportscore II/Indoor Sports Center: Mr. Dimke stated that due to the City's partnership with the RPD, this complex project kicked off construction in August with grant award announcements that solidified the quality of the project. He explained that the financing model utilizes drawdowns as needed, saving on interest costs of a million dollars. RPD staff has been meeting with local construction leaders to address the rising bids on construction work, to increase the number of bidders, and to encourage local awards. The final master plan includes one less field than projected due to field sizes. Some areas of the original concept have been identified as future development areas due to infrastructure costs. The goal is to complete the outdoor fields by late fall to reduce the weather threat to tournaments. The Wedgbury stadium, which was constructed over the summer to secure grant funding, will be used primarily for soccer. The indoor expansion will provide maximum flexibility to accommodate a variety of sports by applying painted turf lines rather than permanent. RPD and RACVB are marketing and booking tournaments.

Mayor Lindberg offered the City of Loves Park's support for zoning modifications necessary to meet the changing needs of the area. He suggested that the Rockford Mass Transit District be engaged to meet local and visiting user needs.

Mr. Ryan suggested that regional, uniform customer service standards and marketing strategies be developed, with the hospitality industry as a partner.

Mr. Groh explained that the RACVB and RPD staff are meeting with hotel managers, working on shuttle service between facilities, lodging, and entertainment venues, and developing a regional hospitality program to prepare and train both the private and public sector.

### **Board Discussion**

The Board proceeded to discuss the issue of flood management along the Rock River. Mayor Lindberg suggested that a coalition be assembled to discuss a collaborative approach. Mayor Krienke requested that all municipalities within the flood plain be involved in developing a solution and joint funding. Mr. Ryan explained that regional consensus to operate the dam would be needed, along with an intergovernmental agreement for consideration by the IDNR. With updates and shared costs, the dam could be used for flood prevention rather than for static retention. Mr. Groh noted that water quality is relevant to potential and current recreation and tourism uses.

### **Financial Update: Hotel Tax Receipts and Projections**

Mr. Dimke reported hotel tax receipts through August totaled \$581,186. Estimated annual receipts are projected at \$952,780 with 5%/\$47,639 going into the reserve account, and \$120,000 due to City of Rockford for the Downtown Sportscore on the Rock renovations.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Dimke recognized the City of Loves Park for developments to the business park near Sportscore Two.

**Motion** by Mr. Bolin, seconded by Mr. Ryan that the Board **adjourn** at 2:22 p.m.

**Approved** 8-0-2 (93.9%) by voice vote.

BOARD APPROVED: 2/3/2015