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City of Loves Park, City of Rockford, City of South Beloit, County of Winnebago,  
Village of Cherry Valley, Village of Machesney Park, Village of Rockton, Village of Roscoe;  
Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Rockford Park District

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## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, September 1, 2015**

Nicholas Conservatory | 1354 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. | Rockford, IL 61107

### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Winnebago County Tourism Facility Board was called to order by WCRTFB Chairman Ian Linnabary at 1:30 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Dale Adams, Mayor Jerry Bolin, Chairman Scott Christiansen, Mayor Jim Claeysen, Mayor David Krienke, Mayor Darryl Lindberg, Rockford Park District (RPD) Commissioner Ian Linnabary, City Administrator Jim Ryan (Mayor Morrissey proxy), Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) President Darrell Snorek.  
Absent: Mayor Ted Rehl.

### **Welcome**

Mr. Linnabary greeted members and guests and introduced Jenny Stauffer, standing in as recording secretary.

### **Public Comment**

There were no guests who wished to address the Board.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Approval of May 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes

**Approved** 7-0-1 (94.9%) by voice vote.

### **Reclaiming First Project Updates**

Mr. Jim Ryan stated the Sportscore Downtown project state reimbursement funds are on track for payment. Construction is 50% complete six months into the project. There has been some interest by vendors interested in leasing space in the adjacent watch factory.

Mr. Matt Vitner reported vehicle and pedestrian traffic improvements are being completed and will continue to be evaluated over the winter to compliment downtown developments.

Executive Director Dimke noted the City of Rockford's current evaluation of the design and long-term use of Davis Park is to include amenities to enhance visitor's experience downtown. Rockford Park District Foundation has adopted river taxi docks and boats as a fundraising priority to facilitate traffic between lodging and regional recreation venues.

The Sportscore Two the majority of outdoor improvements will be completed by December, and the concessions area completed in March. With the turf fields, weather cancelations will minimize negative economic impacts. The \$2.5 million Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) PARC grant is still in suspension preventing bidding of the indoor facility. The postponement of construction jeopardizes winter programming and revenues.

Mayor Krienke suggested that Roscoe and Rockton sports facilities could be connected to the river destinations and with some dredging the river could be opened to increase boat travel north.

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

Mr. Dimke reported hotel tax receipts through August totaled \$544,703. Estimated 2015 receipts are projected at \$840,000 with 5%/\$684,000 going into the reserve account, and \$120,000 due to City of Rockford for the Sportscore Downtown renovations.

#### **Tournament Marketing Update**

Vice Director Groh reported there has been significant interest at trade shows from major tournament organizers. Contract leads and negotiations are promising for a robust opening and ongoing tournament schedule.

#### **Board Discussion**

No additional comments were made.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Dimke shared that the tourism impact is planned as a part of the Reclaiming First project has generated new capital developments both on Riverside and downtown Rockford. Directors were asked to maintain their WCRTFB board manuals with the materials provided at each meeting.

#### **Other**

Mr. Groh reported that a wayfinding committee is evaluating regional signage to direct traffic from the interstate to the sports facilities.

Mr. Ryan reported that the ComEd remediation is approximately 90% complete. Talks have continued with the IDNR for local operation of the dam. Mr. Dimke added that this would provide both water level and recreational advantages.

With the help of Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the City of Rockford is exploring bike share programs. Mr. Linnabary stated that the Rockford Park District is exploring recreational path connectedness. Mr. Groh confirmed that the YMCA is interested in participating in this initiative.

**Amendment of Bylaws Concerning Annual Election of Officers**

Mr. Dimke recommended that the board consider modifying their bylaws to two-year officer terms.

**Motion** by Mr. Lindberg, seconded by Mr. Christiansen, that the Board **approve** the modification of the meeting agenda to address the bylaws prior to electing officers.

**Approved** 7-0-1 (94.9%) by voice vote.

**Motion** by Mr. Lindberg, seconded by Mr. Krienke, that the Board **amend** the bylaws to offer terms of two years

**Approved** 7-0-1 (94.9%) by voice vote.

**Annual Election of Officer**

Mr. Snorek nominated Mr. Linnabary, or designated representative of the RPD, as board chair. Nominations were closed.

Mr. Linnabary was **named** board chair 7-0-1 (94.9%) by roll call vote.

Mr. Lindberg nominated Mr. Snorek, or designated representative of RACVB, as board vice chair. Nominations were closed.

Mr. Snorek was **named** board vice chair 7-0-1 (94.9%) by roll call vote.

**Motion** by Mr. Bolin, seconded by Mr. Adams, that the Board **adjourn** at 2:05 p.m.

**Approved** 7-0-1 (94.9%) by voice vote.

BOARD APPROVED: 11/3/2015

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