



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

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 1, 2016
UW Health Sports Factory | 305 S. Madison St. | Rockford, IL 61101

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Winnebago County Tourism Facility Board was called to order by WCRTFB Executive Director Tim Dimke at 1:40 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Dale Adams, Mayor Jerry Bolin, Chairman Scott Christiansen, Gino Galluzzo (Mayor Darryl Lindberg proxy,) John Groh (Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) President Bobbie Holzworth proxy,) Mayor David Krienke, Mayor Ted Rehl, Mr. Matt Vitner (Mayor Morrissey proxy).

Absent: Mayor Jim Claeysen.

Welcome

Chairman Christiansen, and Mayors Lindberg and Morrissey (not running for re-election) were recognized for their service to the Board.

Public Comment

There were no guests who wished to address the Board.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approval of August 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes
- B. 2017 Regular Meeting Schedule

Approved 7-0-1 (96.5%) by voice vote.

Reclaiming First Project Updates

UWHealth Sports Factory General Manager Julius Rankins was introduced. Business Operations Manager Nancy Kaulzarich gave an update on facility attendance and 2017 bookings. The UWHealth Sports Factory is now sanctioned for volleyball. The facility will be closed for annual sealing of hardcourt flooring.

Mr. Vitner stated that there is not currently interest by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in pursuing transfer of the ComEd dam.

Mr. Dimke described the Mercyhealth Mega Center Topping-Off Ceremony for those who did not attend. The facility is expected to open in May 2017 (ahead of schedule.) The next Board meeting will be held onsite to provide members a preview.

Financial Update: Hotel Tax Receipts and Projections

RPD Chief Financial Officer Penny Christians reported hotel tax receipts to date in 2016 total \$581,186. Five percent/\$45,116 was directed to the reserve account, and \$120,000 was paid to City of Rockford for the UW Health Sports Factory renovation. Collections are slightly under projections. Projections are short of the target, and payments have been made ontime.

Tournament Marketing Update

Mr. Groh shared that the RACVB and RPD are holding joint sales meetings to align and coordinate county-wide destination sales. National tournament prospects are reporting interest in the region specifically because of the quality of the Reclaiming First facilities. The region is short approximately 500 mid-tier hotel rooms to accommodate tourism demands. The City of Rockford is working with Cliffbreakers on updates and the Millenium Center boutique hotel will open in May 2017. He offered to work with any municipalities interested in exploring the addition of hotel rooms..

Mr. Vitner reported that the hotel prospect for the Amerock building is still working on funding.

Board Discussion

Mr. Christiansen reported that the International Women's Baseball League is relocating to Rockford adjacent to Beyer Stadium. They are brining a youth/teen girls tournament which the region should have a team playing in. He also suggested that the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County should be considered for tourism dollars once they become available to the Board to redirect.

Mr. Rehl invited the Board to the ground breaking of the South Beloit Confluence, which has a transformative milestone for the City.


Executive Director's Report

No further report.

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

Approved 7-0-1 (96.5%) by voice vote.


Board Chairman Ian Linnabary


Recording Secretary Julia Halsted
Annika Johnson

BOARD APPROVED:

APPROVED

MAY 16 2017

Winnebago County Regional
Tourism Facility Board

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