



****This summary of actions is provided prior to the WCRTFB Board approval of the official Board Meeting Minutes at the next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting****

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

Thursday, July 8, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom Meeting

(in accordance with amended OMA provisions
included in the State of Illinois Public Act 101-0640)

Call to Order

The special meeting of the Winnebago County Tourism Facility Board was called to order by WCRTFB Chairman, Ian Linnabary at 10:03 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Greg Jury, Mayor Tom McNamara, Mayor Ted Rehl, Winnebago County Chairman Joe Chiarelli, John Groh President & CEO Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Bobbie Holzwarth RACVB Board representative, Ian Linnabary Rockford Park District Board representative, and Jay Sandine Rockford Park District Executive Director.
(82.2% representation)

Absent: Mayor Steve Johnson, Mayor Jim Claeysen, Mayor John Peterson, and Mayor Mark Szula.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the Board.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Mr. Jury, seconded by Mr. Chiarelli, that the Board **approve** the following item on the Consent Agenda:

A. June 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Approved 4(ayes) 0 (nays) 0 (abstain) 4(absent) (82.2%) by voice vote.

Civitas Presentation

Mr. John Groh reviewed information provided at the June 8, 2021 Board meeting on the status of establishing a Tourism Improvement District to benefit the regional tourism industry, help with recovery from the pandemic in 2020, and provide for long-term growth of tourism in our region. Mr. Jay Sandine said the opportunity to develop the first TID in the State of Illinois shows our regional collaborative mindset, and our commitment to working together as agencies to benefit our communities. Ms. Tiffany Gallagher of Civitas advisors was a guest at the meeting, and reviewed the work of Civitas with TID formations. A time of discussion was had by the Board members.

Board Action

Mr. Linnabary introduced Resolution 2021-R-01: Resolution Endorsing the Concept of Creation of a Rockford Area Tourism Promotion Special Service Area (RATPSSA). There was a discussion of amendments to the proposed Resolution to make it acceptable to all parties.

Motion by Mr. Jury, seconded by Mr. McNamara, that the Board **approve** Resolution 2021-R-01: Resolution Endorsing the Concept of Creation of a Rockford Area Tourism Promotion Special Service Area (RATPSSA)

Approved 4(ayes) 0 (nays) 0 (abstain) 4(absent) (82.2%) by roll call vote.

Resolution 2021-R-01 is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

Mayor Rehl left the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Board Discussion and Action

Mr. Jay Sandine and Mr. Dan Jacobson provided an update on the damage to the Mega Center facility roof caused by high-wind weather events over the past year. There was a discussion of the repairs required to resolve the issues, and Mr. Sandine requested approval from the Board for the expenditure of the excess hotel tax reserve funds in the amount of \$248,640.00 for the repairs. Ms. Christians confirmed that sufficient reserve funds are available to cover the repair cost. Mr. Sandine assured the Board that any insurance reimbursement received would be used to reimburse the reserve funds.

Motion by Mr. McNamara, seconded by Mr. Jury, that the Board **approve** the expenditure of \$248,640.00 of reserve funds for the roofing repairs to the Mercyhealth Sportscore 2 Mega Center facility.

Approved 3 (ayes) 0 (nays) 0 (abstain) 5 (absent) (79.5%) by voice vote.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Jury, seconded by Mr. Chiarelli that the Board **adjourn** the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

Approved 3 (ayes) 0 (nays) 0 (abstain) 5 (absent) (79.5%) by voice vote.

Board Chair, Ian Linnabary

Board Vice-Chair, Bobbie Holzwarth

BOARD APPROVED:

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY REGIONAL TOURISM FACILITY BOARD
A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT -2021-R-01
ENDORING THE CONCEPT OF CREATION OF A ROCKFORD AREA TOURISM
PROMOTION SPECIAL SERVICE AREA (“RATPSSA”)**

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Regional Tourism Facility Board (WCRTFB) was established to encourage, support, market, construct or operate sports, arts, or other entertainment facilities or programs for the purpose of promoting tourism, competitiveness, job growth and for the general health and well-being of the citizens of Winnebago County; and

WHEREAS, pandemic-era travel restrictions have lodging properties’ revenue and occupancy at historic lows; and

WHEREAS, pandemic-era travel and occupancy restrictions, and consumer confidence and travel sentiment have negatively impacted tourism businesses, facilities and venues; and

WHEREAS, the tourism and hospitality industry, including meetings and sports tourism, is vital to the economic health of Winnebago County; and

WHEREAS, local hoteliers are supportive of a proposal for the formation of a special service area which will tax those businesses to provide additional funds to aid in the marketing of the region for tourism; and

WHEREAS, the RATPSSA would be a City of Rockford and City of Loves Park-approved assessment that provides that funding to generate resources to accelerate recovery and promote long-term growth; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Regional Tourism Facility Board (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) wishes to state its support for the concept of creating the RATPSSA and

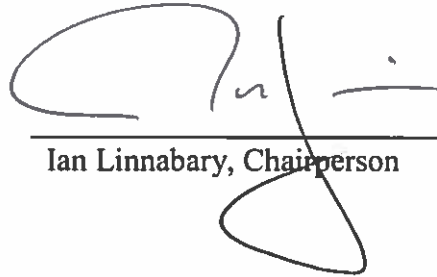
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the weighted vote on July 7, 2021, by the Directors of the WCRTFB Board which represented at least a sixty-seven percent of the population of Winnebago County, Illinois and with the incorporation of the foregoing recitals, that Winnebago County Regional Tourism Facility Board hereby endorses the concept of the creation of a Rockford Area Tourism Promotion Special Services Area.

ADOPTED this the 8th day of July, 2021

Signed:

Passed by the Board of Directors of the Winnebago County Tourism Facility Board this 8th day of July 2021.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 4 Abstain 0



Ian Linnabary, Chairperson

Attest:



Roberta Holzwarth, Vice-Chairperson

APPROVED

JUL 08 2021

**Winnebago County Regional
Tourism Facility Board**