



**Recreation & Arena Advisory Commission Meeting
September 11, 2023
Arena Conference Room**

Attendance: Kevin Barry, Joan Strogon, Dale Bickford, Dick Clough, Dave Camire, Sheila Colson, Dave Colson, Dana Berlin, Lexy VanBinsbergen; Steve Trepanier, Lauren Krans

1. Introduction of RYH Board/Booster Intro/Overview

Bill Leduc RYH President of the Board, Fred Chisholm RYH Board Member attended meeting and provided an update on the organization and the current state of youth hockey in New Hampshire. Mr. Leduc shared concerns about for profit organizations enticing players away from nonprofit organizations like RYH

2. Accept June Minutes

Member Dale Bickford motioned to accept. Unanimous support.

3. Review Revenue & expense Reports

Member Dale Bickford motioned to accept. Unanimous support.

4. Department Mission Statement & FY24 Department Goals

Director Krans reviewed the departments mission statement and discussed the FY 24 Department Goals. First goal – Maintain community engagement through positive and joyful experiences, keep program touches status quo with a focus on quality over quantity; Second Goal – Generate projected FY24 Revenues for both department budgets; Third Goal – update the departments Master Plan; Fourth Goal – Maintain a joyful, high functions team that “works hard and plays hard!”

5. Rochester Arena: Player Performance Area Rules & Rates

Director Krans reviewed and draft of Player Performance Area Rules and Rates. RYH can use during their contracted ice time, with the exception of weekend game slots. Member Strogon discussed her concern about for profit leagues renting the PPA and poaching RYH Players. Director Krans stated that they would provide usage updates each meeting with special attention to this concern. The Commission supported RYH and established Contracted Ice User groups having right of first refusal for available PPA times before they go public.– Member Camire mentioned that rules should be edited to include a coach to be supervising at all times with any user group. Member Berlin suggested adding a camera to cover that area.

6. Summer 2023 Review: Public Swim and Summer Camp

Everyone had a safe summer. Need to increase summer staffing and supervision. Staff was allowed to assist campers with medication this summer following the new department policy that was reviewed by City Legal and Primex. Director Krans stated that staff will be proposing updates to public swim practices



and policy at a later date, including Extending ID requirements to patrons 12 and over. Youth could show their school ID. Director Krans also suggested the department exploring decreasing the amount of pool time reserved for outside agencies in order to increase general public swim access.

7. Recreation Master Plan Update

Director Krans provided an update on the Recreation Master Plan Committee's members and first meeting. Working with Strafford Regional Planning to update the Recreation Chapter of the City's Master Plan. Director Krans will bring updates to the Commission each month on this progress. The current group contains members representing: Rec, DPW, Economic Development, Economic Development Committee, Riverwalk, Rochester Youth Hockey, Roger Allen, Senior Activity Center, Spaulding High School and Rochester Elementary Schools.

8. Other

Director Krans reviewed the new department Standard Operating Procedure for Rec Center facility Operations and Access. She reviewed the following different modes of operations and access for the Rec Center:

Lockdown Mode, Summer Camp Mode, School Mode, Rec Center Mode, Community Center Event Mode, Election Mode.

The operation plan for each of these modes outlines what doors are locked and who is allowed access into the building during specific hours. The intent of this plan is to balance community accessibility while still maintaining facility safety. Director Krans stated that the Standard Operating Procedure also outlines that if expanding access to the Rec Center creates safety concerns for staff or patrons, access will become more restricted. The Commission supported these procedures and Director Krans' approach.

Director Krans shared that a member of the Spaulding High School Boys Soccer Boosters requested access to the Community Center Boys Locker rooms during the soccer season for use before and after games and practices. Staff reviewed this request and determined that it could not be met due to concerns about facility access and safety as well as current custodial and staffing resources. Director Krans communicated to the boosters member that if they wanted to explore such a request in the future it should come through the Athletic Director and would require a larger discussion about resources between the school department, recreation department and Buildings and Grounds. The Commission supported this response. Hanson Pines Basketball bleachers have been installed as part of the CDBG Teen Seating area project. DPW is currently overseeing the installation of outdoor lights as part of a Capital Improvement Project.

Next Meeting: October 16th @ 6pm Rochester Arena