

Ice Rink Advisory Committee

Minutes: November 5, 2014

IRAC members present: Gregg Esakoff, Ron Brunk, Bailey Minnich, Doug Wise, Kelly Davidson, Donna Taylor, Mariah Bierens (representative for Murray Craven)

City Staff present: Maria Butts, Shannon Holmes, and Jake Topp

Call to Order: The meeting began at 7:06pm

A. Approval of October 7, 2014 meeting minutes

Ron moved to approve the October 7th minutes as proposed. Donna seconded. All in favor.

B. Public Comment

- Sarah Filtzgerald – a user of the facility, plays hockey and family in learn to skate program; has some concerns with how the ice rink is being run specifically it being poorly managed, the overall cleanliness of the facility; she stated that the ice quality is horrible and dangerous; she is a concerned citizen and that the rink is a multimillion facility that is going downhill; she came to the meeting tonight wanting to know what is going on because she hears rumors but wants to know the facts.
- Leslie Low – she is a landscape architect for WAG; she plays hockey and is at the rink most days of the week; she had the same comments as Sarah with #1 being that the quality of the ice is appalling at times; she has seen rinks all over Canada and US and thinks this rink is really poor; #2 there is a huge volunteer organization within the rink; she's been involved in whole process; we have one of the tightest communities for hockey; there are a lot of people who care about the rink and making it a great place for the community; lately there has been some animosity with the rink; she feels it is pretty disturbing; goes beyond the cleanliness issues and bad ice quality needing to get resolved; thanked the board for their time and hopes we can strengthen the partnership.

Some discussion occurred in between the public comments. Questions regarding the ice and refrigerant loss that happened previously. Last the board heard was that the ice was better. Since then no comments had been received regarding that the ice was bad or the cleanliness of the facility. Maria indicated she would like more information on what and when they experienced problems with the cleanliness of the facility and the ice quality problems. Gregg said they are aware that there is a backboard that is causing ice problems on the north end and some issues with shaving of the ice. Shannon discussed ice maintenance during the week and that ice levels are measured daily. They are doing everything they can to maintain that end but they know it is not staying as cold as it should be. The overall problem requires the ice to be taken out to be fixed but unless every user group is willing to take a month off to get it fixed that isn't going to happen until this summer. Gregg indicated that specific issues need to be brought up to the City's attention. Maria also indicated that they are trying to bring in a specialist from Canada to help train staff on proper ice maintenance. Discussion then revolved around the cleanliness of the facility. Multiple toilets plugged and toilet paper missing in multiple stalls. Ideas that maybe it is a timing issue with adults seeing it at the end of the day. Ron brought up that since the season has begun, the board has only had 2 meetings. He asked that the public be patient, that the rink staff is working on the issues, and that feedback is good for issues to be addressed. Specific times and information is very helpful, and if that information can be forwarded to Maria it can help show which staff needs more assistance.

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- Chad (with Glacier Skate) – they are having a big board meeting this weekend to look at the future goals for Glacier Skate. But mostly things are good.
- Ron made a comment that he wanted to do one thing before the board went into old business. He introduced Doug Wise who is currently on the Park Board. He is going to be switching out with Ron as the Park Board member on the committee. They are going to share the seat for the next few months while Doug gets caught up on everything. The committee members introduced themselves and Doug gave a brief introduction about himself.

C. Old Business

1. IRAC Mission Statement

There was a draft submitted at the meeting with 2 items. Kelly said they speak for themselves. Although she had some questions regarding what role the committee should have. Maybe more input needed from the City on what they want the committee's role to be. The second proposal is from Carol, while the first is a mixture of Kelly and Donna's ideas. Donna stated they didn't put a lot of time into the statement until they knew the parameters from the City. Gregg said the initial idea was how the committee could be the most effective by making recommendations to the Parks Board for their input. Ron discussed his thoughts on the direction of the committee and that he liked the first option better. Gregg stated he also liked the first option as it represents the user groups and communicating to the community. Maria stated she agreed with both Ron and Gregg, and that it is a good direction for the IRAC to take. Discussion then went onto a different topic regarding marketing and advertising. Shannon addressed the issue of advertising for the rink with regard to boards and banners. She is reaching out to people, and waiting to see who is going to renew. Mariah indicated she would be interested in helping. Gregg mentioned the possibility of a longer season and maybe longer advertising for the sponsors. Bailey asked if Shannon could send out the information to the user groups so that they can reach out to their contacts as well. Further discussion followed regarding advertising money. Maria discussed the procedures for the general fund with City Council. Also discussed was the topic of user groups selling advertising themselves. Further discussion followed regarding the vision of the committee. Maria indicated it is advisory to the Parks Board and staff but there are certain instances when the committee can do things themselves such as volunteer work.

Ron motioned for approval of proposal #1 of the draft IRAC mission statement (does not require going to the Park Board for approval). Mariah seconded. All in favor.

2. FY 15 User Group Priorities

Discussion regarding each user group creating a list of their priorities. Gregg didn't have all user groups yet. Kelly indicated Henry had their list but it hasn't made it to Gregg yet. Discussion allowing user groups who have not submitted priorities yet, to have another 2 weeks to get it in. A combined list would be brought to the next meeting.

3. Sale of Light Fixtures

Discussion of this item from past agenda. Maria indicated she checked with the City Manager and discovered anything that is surplus needs to go through the city auction process in order to be sold. The City may be looking at a spring auction. Discussion continued regarding the sale of items at auction and if they are general city assets.

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4. Skate Flyers for School Children

Jake updated the board that flyers were sent to the 2nd graders. Kelly also sent a flyer that listed all the different programs. Discussion followed with the proposed intermission skating for 2nd graders at the Wolverines game that weekend. Shannon indicated that if it was a success, she would love to do it again for multiple ages and schools. Gregg asked for an update at the next meeting. Jake also stated he was in contact with other schools regarding possible school trips/options. Eureka schools are set to come in January, ages 5th to 8th graders.

5. Roof Repair Update

This item is postponed until Jason gets back from vacation. Maria stated she did think the roof repair is fully completed.

6. Pints for a Purpose Lobby Remodel Update

Staff found the missing check which was for around \$470. It was deposited into the city accounts. Staff has given the go ahead to begin the lobby remodel which includes repainting and working on the trim around the concessions. Discussion followed on the topic of getting some volunteers to do the work.

D. New Business

1. Low E Ceiling

This item is postponed until Jason gets back from vacation.

E. Staff Comments

1. Budget Update

Maria discussed the current budget with the board and included a new breakdown of the budget items. Discussion was held on anticipated expenses that the board will see next month. Maria informed the board that all user groups are up to date on their ice payments. All board members agreed they liked the new format. Further discussion followed on the format and some of the budget numbers.

- Shannon discussed the additional TVs in the lobby. She will be in touch with the user group contacts regarding potential use of one of them for announcements when she gets all of the issues worked out. She did inform the user groups that they can start working on ideas or layouts if they would like.
- Mariah had a question for staff regarding the locker rooms and if they could provide locks on the locker rooms. Shannon stated she had discussed this issue with her user group contacts with GHA already. The concession has keys to all locker rooms that can be signed out but the keys have to be signed back in the same day. The main issue is that user groups can't store their equipment in the locker rooms overnight. Further discussion occurred regarding some changes in policy and rules being enforced.

F. Board Comments

- Ron discussed issues that were brought up at the last Parks Board meeting. Discussion occurred regarding the rink as a city park and city policies have to be consistent. Further discussion followed regarding vendors and standards for selling food at the rink. Have to be consistent for all city parks and all user groups. More discussion regarding issues with special events followed
- Ron also discussed a letter received regarding the Wolverines user agreement. They are working with the City to get everything dealt with, although he stated that some things may be

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workable and some things may not. He did stress that the City really needs a copy of insurance from the Wolverines. At this time, youth hockey and the Wolverines have not submitted their insurance paperwork. Discussed that if the City doesn't get it ASAP then the police will not allow them to participate on the rink. The original deadline for the insurance submittal was the beginning of September. Kelly stated she will get an answer by Friday for the Wolverines;

- Bailey stated that the Curling Club received their 4th set of stones that day.
- Gregg mentioned to Staff that the front sign lights are out. He also stated the scaffolding will be staying through December behind score keeper. Also discussed was Bailey putting the minutes and agenda on the city website.

Next regular meeting date was December 2, 2014. There is a conflict with another meeting that meeting. The Board changed the date to **December 3rd at 6:30pm.**

H. Adjourn @ 9:15pm