

Symons Recreation Complex Natatorium Board Minutes July 8, 2024

The Natatorium Board met in person & virtually via Zoom on July 8th, 2024 at 6:00 pm. The following people were in attendance: Dave Turk, Mary Miller, Todd Coppernoll, Mark Chambers, Melony Walters, John Cler and Grant Worthington. Mike Hardy, Candace Pesch, Alan Lins, Barb Wentz, Dean Amundson, Joel Rewald and Suzanne Fish were also present.

1. Call to Order - Cler called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. Roll Call of Membership
3. Open Meetings Compliance - Verification was met, per Hardy.
4. Approve Agenda - Coppernoll made a motion to approve the agenda. Walters seconded. Motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes of June 10, 2024 – Miller made a motion to approve the minutes. Turk seconded. Motion carried.
6. Public Comment - None

Administrative Reports:

7. YTD Membership Updates – Hardy noted that very little changes were seen in June membership numbers. Active memberships remain around 2,000 members with Mondays & Wednesdays the busiest days in terms of visits, averaging over 1,000 visits each day on Mondays and Wednesdays, and over 800 on Fridays. Most fitness programs are held on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, which is the reason for heavier traffic those days.
8. YTD Budget Updates- Hardy shared a spreadsheet with current year to date financials through 2nd quarter, 2024. While revenues were near the 50% mark, expenses were at only 39%. Without County and City tax subsidy, revenues had increased 1% from Quarter 1, now only 8% under the YTD goal, however expenses decreased 4% from Quarter 1, now 11% under goal. Quarter 2 has shown an improvement over Quarter 1, as Q1 was at -2% and Q2 ended at +3%, a 5% improvement giving optimism for being on the right path, however Hardy suggested its still early, and he would like to see revenues from memberships continue to grow.
9. Director's Report – Hardy updated members on a better outlook for lifeguard staffing, as 4 new lifeguards have been hired over the summer, though we are still barely able to maintain regular scheduling, so additional guard applicants continue to be needed. Hardy also noted that he and Assistant Director Ewing have started planning for an Open House event in the fall in which the community will be invited to meet staff and Foundation members, meet instructors and learn about classes, explore membership specials and options, and learn about upcoming events. Hopefully we will be able to provide an update on any future facility changes as well if Symons facility changes due to the campus facility study and future use of property.
10. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Report – Al Lins noted that the Foundation had applied for and received \$3,000 from the Woodman Foundation toward the purchase of the SciFit exercise machine that is on the agenda for consideration tonight. Also they are considering applying for funding to help replace dumbbells in the weight room and received a request to purchase a punching bag.

Action Items:

11. Consider donation offer from Symons Complex Foundation of a SciFit Pro2 inclusive exercise machine valued at \$6,062.48 – Hardy presented members with a request to accept a donation to purchase a new exercise machine that can be used by special needs populations including those confined to a wheelchair. Per County policy, the donation must be requested to County Board for approval. Coppernoll moved to recommend the acceptance of a donation of \$6,062.48 from the Symons Recreation Complex Foundation to purchase a SciFit Pro2 exercise machine. Seconded by Chambers. Motion carried.

12. Consider donation offer from Symons Complex Foundation of \$3,000 to repair the inverter from the solar panel array at Symons—Hardy presented members with a request to accept a donation to purchase a new inverter needed to repair the solar panel system which has been out of service for over a year. Because it needed to be ordered in advance, County Administrator Pesch approved the order and it is currently on order, however the Foundation has money remaining in the solar panel account and has offered to pay for the inverter. Chambers asked if the \$3,000 includes installation labor. Hardy replied that the \$3,000 includes labor as well as a 10-year warranty. Chambers moved to recommend the acceptance of a donation of \$3,000 from the Symons Recreation Complex Foundation to replace the solar inverter. Seconded by Walters. Motion carried.
13. Consider donation offer from Symons Complex Foundation of \$400 for 12 yoga mats—Hardy presented members with a request to accept a donation of \$400 to purchase 12 yoga mats to replace those that were worn out. As this was a needed replacement, the mats were already ordered and have been received, so members can use them, if donation gets approved the money would replace budgeted money used to purchase the mats. Turk moved to recommend the acceptance of a donation of \$400 from the Symons Recreation Complex Foundation to reimburse Symons for the purchase of 12 yoga mats. Seconded by Chambers. Motion carried.
14. Consider donation offer from Symons Complex Foundation of \$900 for a 1-year Survey Monkey subscription to survey members and non-members to improve future membership and programming services—Hardy presented members with a request to accept a donation to purchase a one year subscription to Survey Monkey. Chambers asked if Foundation members would have input on surveys. Hardy stated that staff will work with the Foundation to allow for input on surveys presented, however per County policy only County staff are permitted to access the programming and create surveys. Chambers moved to recommend the acceptance of a donation of \$900 from the Symons Recreation Complex Foundation for a one-year subscription to Survey Monkey. Seconded by Coppernoll. Motion carried.
15. 2025 Budget Considerations— Hardy presented a spreadsheet prepared showing a breakdown of expenses and revenues along with revenue sources annually between 2018 and 2024. He noted the effects of COVID as well as staffing shortages on the numbers, and stated that there has been too much of a “roller coaster” effect on the bottom line, which needs to be corrected for more sustainable financial operations in the future. He would like to see requests for tax levy aid from City and County reduced, as the current levy of about \$119,000 represents about 1/5 of Symons revenues, which is too much in his opinion based on current service levels. He also presented a Fee comparison worksheet which had fees charged from 2018-2024. For the most part, other than the year following COVID, membership rates had increased by 4-5% in most categories. To keep up with expenses, Hardy would be proposing another 5% increase in membership rates for 2025. Visitor rates have changed very little since 2018 and Hardy noted that those rates should be updated annually to keep pace with member rates. An increase is being proposed with those as well. Other program rates were shared as well, and are needed to be considered as they make up resources we have to pay for 2025 expenses. Hardy will be meeting with Administrator Pesch and Finance Director Larry Erbs in two weeks to present budget requests, and asked for any input or comments from the Board as to rates or charges. Walters noted that more pursuit of grants is important and was happy to hear the plan to lessen request of taxpayers in lieu of more grant writing and pursuit of donations. Chambers asked about continued collaboration with other community groups to remain efficient and include other user groups. Coppernoll asked about efforts to reach out to school districts to increase involvement in future operations. No action taken.

Closing:

16. Future Agenda Items— None

17. Adjourn—Walters made a motion to adjourn at 6:48pm. Chambers seconded. The motion carried.