

Symons Recreation Complex Natatorium Board Minutes September 9, 2024

The Natatorium Board met in person & virtually via Zoom on September 9th, 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. Staff members Mike Hardy and Kyle Ewing were present. Symons Foundation members Barb Wentz, Dean Amundson 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 – Walters made a motion to approve the agenda. Coppernoll seconded. Motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2024 – Miller made a motion to approve the minutes. Walters seconded. Motion carried.
6. Public Comment – Suzanne Fish commented that Symons has higher intensity fitness classes in addition to low impact, and encouraged younger people interested in a harder workout to attend either the 5:30am Tuesday & Thursday or 5:30pm Monday-Thursday classes with instructor Lydia.

Administrative Reports:

7. Summary of Campus Gymnasium Feasibility Study – Hardy provided a brief review of the gymnasium portion of the presentation held regarding the condition of the gymnasium. He stated that the county has a lot of information to digest with the study and various buildings, but that an expansion to Symons has been under consideration for several years, which now includes the possibility of using the gymnasium due to its location adjacent to Symons as well as its current vacancy. Hardy noted that while it may not be feasible for Symons to take on the costs of the gym facility, the Natatorium Board should be prepared if County Board asks for feedback as to the future use of the gym and Symons. Hardy noted the cost to “renew” the building as estimated by Venture versus the cost to build new, and the importance to work with the school district to provide needed space while minimizing any future impacts to taxpayers. Turk added the needs to address doorways weather sealing noted in the report to protect the gym floor, which was in good shape and replaced not long ago, in addition to being one of the few wood floor courts available in the area. He added that the architects will be providing a detailed list of costs and building needs and the Campus Reconfiguration Committee will be meeting in the next 2 weeks to start to sort through some of the info, however it will be a long process. Hardy added that many of the costs were related to accessibility, especially in restroom areas, and that ADA has changed several times since 1967, especially in 1990 which has created some compliance issues if/when any renovations would occur. Miller asked about the relationship between Symons and the Campus Gym currently. Hardy replied that other than the County owning both buildings and the location of each less than 30 feet away from each other, there is no current formal relationship – though in 2019 conceptual plans and an estimate of \$2 million was completed which would connect the two buildings and allow Symons to expand into the gym building with a partnership with UW classes and student use. Those plans were shared in public meetings and gained significant support as an easier way to meet Symons expansion needs...however COVID hit soon after and then the UW pulled out of Richland County, so now while we have an opportunity to expand, we have no formal plans and this study will help determine possibilities. Hardy added that the \$2 million estimate made in 2019 to connect the buildings is likely double that now after post-COVID construction pricing, and it will be more important to plan for annual maintenance and operation costs of the addition than the one time costs of the building to ensure long term sustainability is met if we are to seriously consider the gym.
8. Member Survey – Hardy asked members if anyone had any specific areas they would like to see added to the fall member survey that is currently being worked on and hopes to be available during the Open House. Walters noted that some members have noted that the weight room can be intimidating at times with younger members

using the weights and asked if there was a way to word a question to see if certain times could be reserved for older members or those that might be intimidated by the younger, more serious lifters. She also added that creation of more low impact classes in partnership with the hospital would be good for those following their physical therapy. Staff will work on including some of these ideas in a future survey.

9. YTD Membership Updates – Hardy noted that considering that the pool area was closed one week for annual shutdown, August numbers continued to trend upwards, with a third consecutive month of growth in number of visits. Monthly visits are now at just over about 5,200 per month, with Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays continuing to lead the way in numbers.
10. YTD Budget Updates- Hardy shared a spreadsheet with current year to date financials through August 31st. Revenues and Expenses continue to show a trend of steady growth, with revenues still outpacing expenses by 4%, showing a similar surplus as in July and an increase of 1% since June 30 and increase of 6% since Hardy started in April. As summer is typically a slower time with less revenue coming in, this is a very positive trend to continue.
11. Director's Report – Hardy introduced new Assistant Director Kyle Ewing. Upcoming events including the Open House, Senior Expo and Celebrate Pink events were discussed as well as current recruitment for lifeguards and WSIs to fill needed timeslots in the middle of the day which has been challenging with the loss of UW students and high school students now back in school. The push for retired individuals has not developed into any applicants unfortunately. Recent upgrades to landscaping, atrium windows and painting was discussed.
12. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Report – Barb Wentz noted that in addition to high intensity training that was discussed earlier, she instructs classes for older adults that are very low intensity, so Symons has a wide range of choices for many abilities and interests. Wentz also invited everyone to the next Power of Giving presentation September 24 in which Hardy will be speaking along with others in an effort to raise more money for Symons projects.

Action Items:

13. Consider donation offer from Symons Complex Foundation of one-time professional cleaning services valued at \$1,850 – Hardy presented an offer from a donor working with the Foundation to provide cleaning of the facility by PB Clean Up, LLC before Open House. He noted that as a donation, it is required to be recommended to the County Board who will consider acceptance at their next meeting. Coppernoll moved to recommend the acceptance of a donation of \$1,850 from the Symons Recreation Complex Foundation to contract for professional cleaning at Symons. Seconded by Chambers. Motion carried.
14. Consider donation offer from Symons Complex Foundation of Electronic Sign Refurbishment valued at \$4,600 – Hardy presented an offer from the Foundation to sand and re-paint the Hwy 14 Symons sign from BL Signs at a cost of \$4,600. Chambers asked if we had any mock-ups of what the sign would look like. Hardy stated that it would be the same color scheme, just re-painted, unless they would like new colors. Coppernoll moved to recommend the acceptance of a donation of \$4,600 from the Symons Recreation Complex Foundation to refurbish the Hwy 14 sign. Seconded by Chambers. Motion carried.

Closing:

15. Future Agenda Items – None
16. Adjourn—Chambers made a motion to adjourn at 6:46pm. Walters seconded. The motion carried.