

## **Symons Recreation Complex Natatorium Board Minutes May 12, 2025**

The Natatorium Board met on May 12th, 2025 at 5:30 pm. The following people were in attendance: Dave Turk, Larry Engel, Todd Coppernoll, Melony Walters, John Cler, Rachel Schultz and Mary Miller. Staff members Mike Hardy and Kyle Ewing were also present. 1 member of the public was in attendance.

1. Call to Order - Walters called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
2. Roll Call of Membership
3. Open Meetings Compliance - Verification was met, per Hardy.
4. Approve Agenda – Engel made a motion to approve the agenda. Coppernoll seconded. Motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes of April 14th, 2025 – Walters made a motion to approve the minutes. Miller seconded. Motion carried.
6. Public Comment – none

### Administrative Reports:

7. Staff Report – Hardy provided budget and membership summary through April 30, 2025. Symons is again partnering with the ADRC to offer the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Wellness Stride which will take place on May 22 at 5pm with food trucks and music to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older Americans Act. The MOU with the Richland School District in using the former UW gymnasium was reviewed by School Administration and final format will be considered for adoption by County Board this month. It is likely that we will have an MOU in place by the end of May and we can begin using the gym this summer.
8. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Report – no report
9. Update on Re-branding, Sponsorships and Partnerships – Hardy provided an overview of an Innovation Grant Award that was received by the City to complete a study of Symons operations and determination of how we can become more efficient and sustainable to grow in the future, meet member and resident needs while reducing impact on tax subsidies, which will continue to become less available due to state regulations and the lack of growth in Richland County. It is important to note that this is expected to be a transparent process, with community involvement to create the best report, which may reveal that we are doing everything well, but will also provide options for additional management and associated costs, as well as reviewing current marketing and how we can better communicate and serve the community with available resources. The Grant will be shared with upcoming County Board, City Council and Symons Foundation Board meetings as well with the study beginning this summer and wrapping up in early fall. Additionally, the County will be considering contracting with Venture Architects to complete a study on the SRC facilities, including mechanical and infrastructure needs as well as future space needs, both for operations and programming. The study will partner well with the City's Innovation Grant study to provide a full view of facility and operations for consideration of needs for SRC future. Hardy noted that he is working on a naming/sponsorship policy that will allow SRC to consider future funding support to name various parts of the SRC. For example, which the Symons Recreation Complex name remains as the facility name, the tennis courts will need over \$300,000 in repairs and creates an opportunity for a major donor to have the courts named after them for a significant donation. The policy would fit within existing County donation policies and need a review from County Attorney before they have an opportunity to review, but will give another outside revenue source to support our improvements.

### Action Items:

10. Consider recommending acceptance of Program Grants – Hardy reviewed grant awards that were applied for to create new programs at SRC. The American Canoe Association awarded \$500 to start a new kayak safety class. We were given the 6 kayaks from the UW when they left, so the \$500 will cover instructor costs and allow us to

create an affordable/low cost program. \$3,000 was received from the Richland Campus Foundation to create a free swim lesson program for all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders of the Richland School District. Additionally, \$10,000 from the W.R. & Floy Sauey Family Foundation (parent of several companies including Seats, which is located in RC) was received to provide transportation from Richland Intermediate School to Symons during the school day throughout the program. Those two grants will enable the RSD to offer swim lessons as part of their curriculum during the 2025-26 school year at no cost to the parents or district, and no cost to SRC to make sure each 3<sup>rd</sup> grader receives a full 2-week swim lesson at no cost and during the school day, so no transportation issues for the families. Motion to recommend acceptance of all grants by Engel, seconded by Coppernoll. Motion carried.

11. Consider recommendations to the County/City Swimming Pool (Symons) agreement – no action as an updated agreement was not available at the meeting. Attorney Windle will be asked to attend the next meeting or provide a draft update for consideration in June.
12. Consider future SRC Staffing Organization Models – With the announcement of the Innovation Grant study happening this summer, this item has been tabled in order to take the study data into consideration before making any structural changes, however it will return for consideration as part of the 2026 budget to continue moving staff operations forward to continue to pursue sustainability and better meet member needs.
13. Future Agenda Items – Walters noted that a new President will need to be elected at next meeting.
14. Adjourn—Engel made a motion to adjourn at 6:02pm. Coppernoll seconded. Motion carried.