Symons Recreation Complex
Natatorium Board Minutes October 13, 2025

The Symons Recreation Complex Board met on October 13th, 2025 at 5:30 pm. The following people were in attendance: Todd Coppernoll, Dave Turk, Larry Engel, Mary Miller, Grant Worthington, Melony Walters, John Cler, Rachel Schultz and Al Lins. Staff members Mike Hardy and Kyle Ewing were also present. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Board member Dean Amundson was also present. 1 member of the public was in attendance online.

1. Call to Order - Cler 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 – Schultz made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Coppernoll seconded. Motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes of August 11th, 2025 – Engel made a motion to approve the minutes. Walters seconded. Motion carried.
6. Public Comment – none

Administrative Reports:

7. Staff Report – Hardy provided updates on September membership and visitor counts. Reminders of the annual Open House to be held October 25 & 26 with free admission was given, as well as a summary of upcoming events, including the Pumpkinfest Run/Walk, the Pumpkinfest Pool Party and a brat cookout to benefit the SRC Foundation on October 25. SRC would be at the Trick or Treat Trail in Krouskop Park on October 24th to pass out candy and info about Symons. Ewing added that about 70 participants were signed up so far for the run/walk and that St. Mary's 3rd grade free swim lessons began this week and will run for 10 weeks. Hardy noted that the free lessons were part of the grant received earlier this year and that Richland School District is working with staff to bring their 3rd graders over later this year for the same program. When complete, about 100 3rd graders will have received the free lessons. Pending future funding, we plan to continue the program for future Richland Center students and possibly extend the program to other schools in the County.

8. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Report – Dean Amundson noted that the current donation campaign has received just over $100,000 in the first 3 weeks. The campaign will go through the end of October. Hardy added that at the SRC Foundation Board meeting earlier in the day, Board members elected Al Lins to fill the Foundation seat on the Symons Recreation Complex Board.

9. Update on Re-branding, Sponsorships and Partnerships – Hardy reported that Venture Architects has not yet replied with any updates on the facility report and he has not seen or heard from them since their only site visit to Symons on July 1. Hardy added that the City approved the recommendation of Innovative Public Advisors out of West Bend to complete the Symons organizational study. IPA was selected by a team including Hardy and the City Administrator and Municipal Services Coordinator out of 5 very well qualified firms. IPA will compete the study in about 14 weeks, which was much quicker than the 8 months that the other proposed, and will included considerable opportunities for the public to be involved through a survey and community input meeting. Several Stakeholder meetings will also be held to allow Foundation Board, Symons Board, School District, County and City elected official input to provide several well-rounded options best suited for SRC sustainability and success in the future.

Action Items:

10. Consider open gym pass daily/month fees for non-members – Hardy noted that with the temporary use of the campus gym, we have the opportunity to expand programming for our members, but we aren't able to add staff and have no way to efficiently monitor the gym in its current state. We should provide use of the gym to members at no cost as a benefit to membership, however allowing non-members to use as well could promote additional

memberships from those who would join Symons for the gym use, which they aren't able to get from other area clubs. Hardy recommended $2 per day for non-members, and noted that at this time, the format would likely be kept in an informal, open gym concept. Without having an affordable way to monitor gym-specific memberships, Hardy advised that at this time, a monthly gym only membership is not easily do-able. Dean Amundson noted that other gyms that charge for pickleball day use typically average around $2 per day, with some up to $5. He noted that the Community Center doesn't charge per person, but for the club to reserve the gym for the day. Walters moved to charge $2 for non-members to use the gym, seconded by Engel. Motion carried.

11. Consider recommending acceptance of $25,000 Stewardship Grant for Marty Brewer Nature Trail Improvements– Hardy reported that while we applied for a Recreational Trails Program Grant in May, which was an 80-20 matching grant to provide $40,000 of the $50,000 project costs-we were informed that due to many applications, we did not receive that Grant, however the state instead offered us a Stewardship Grant, which is a 50-50 match. Because this is different than the grant applied for, we need a recommendation for acceptance to County Board. The difference in grants would be that while we would still provide $50,000 in upgrades to the trail, instead of needing to raise $10,000 to match the grant, we will need to raise $25,000. However it is a 2-year grant, so we have time to get the match. Hardy cautioned that by accepting the grant, the County would need to understand that if they ever decided not to maintain the trails for public recreation access in the future (like the tennis courts) they would need to replace the value of the trails in another County public recreational area and apply to the DNR for permission to vacate the trails. Turk stated that while he cannot speak to what the County Board will decide, he feels that the intent was to keep the Marty Brewer Trails forever and can't see another use for the wooded hillside that the trails are on.
Engel moved to recommend acceptance of the $25,000 Stewardship Grant for the trails to the County Board for consideration, seconded by Coppernoll. Motion carried.

12. Consider recommending acceptance of $1,000 grant from Richland Campus Community Foundation - Hardy noted that he was contacted by the Campus Foundation about the availability of another grant from them. He was informed that $1,000 was available. Due to high costs of supplies for the large format printer, $500 was would be allocated to those expenses and $500 would go to provide staffing, music and popcorn at the Pumpkinfest Pool Party. Motion by Miller to accept the donations, seconded by Lins. Motion carried.

13. Consider future space needs of Symons Recreation Complex – Hardy advised the Board that with the County needing to make decisions on campus facilities and property, the Board needs to work on a unified direction pertaining to future space needs. While our priority remains upgrading existing locker rooms and adding family locker rooms, the location of current locker rooms and building layout make it nearly impossible to expand, and to spend tens of thousands of dollars or more to renovate existing only to have a potential addition planned less than 5 year later is a poor use of scarce dollars. Hardy shared the past 2 major design proposals where Symons received paid conceptual design services for building additions to meet space needs. The first in 2005 which was a large addition on the north side of existing building would more than double our current size, but as the City has added some of what was included in that plan in other areas (senior center & family pool with waterslides) those would no longer be needed at Symons. The second was a more recent collaboration with the UW in which Symons and UW gym would be connected, Symons would manage everything, the UW would have use of the gym for classes and sports and would received a break on student memberships in exchange for sharing in the projected $3 million cost in 2018. That more recent one went as far as several community meetings. Engel suggested inviting Richland School District to future meetings to develop a relationship. Hardy replied that he would invite both Steve Board from RSD and Richland Hospital CEO Bruce Roessler to be involved in future partnership opportunities. No action.

Closing:

14. Committee Correspondence – None

15. Future Agenda Items – None.

16. Adjourn—Walters made a motion to adjourn at 6:35pm. Engel seconded. Motion carried.