

Symons Recreation Complex Board Minutes May 11, 2026

The Symons Recreation Complex Board met on May 11, 2026 at 5:30 pm. The following people were in attendance: John Cler, Rachel Schultz, Al Lins, Grant Worthington, Mary Miller, Rod Perry, Steve Downs & Karin Tepley. Staff members Mike Hardy and Kyle Ewing were also present.

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. Lins seconded. Motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes of March 9, 2026 – Downs noted a correction of spelling for Melony Walters. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrected spelling. Lins seconded. Motion carried.
6. Public Comment – none

Administrative Reports:

7. Staff Report – Hardy noted that HVAC engineering bids would be reviewed by Public Works Committee Thursday as well as free summer memberships to 7th and 8th grade students in the Richland School District, thanks to a grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation. Ewing summarized the free swim lessons to 94 third grade students from St. Marys and the Richland Intermediate Schools which wrapped up last month. Hardy added that this was also thanks to grants from the W.R. & Sauey Family Foundation and the Richland County Campus Foundation. Hardy reviewed year to date budget and membership reports, with budget performing well within target and just under 2,000 active members and nearly 7,000 visits last month.

8. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Report – Al Lins noted that the Foundation finalized the creating of an endowment fund and initially set up \$100,000 in their account, with hopes to grow to \$2 million to provide future operational budget support to Symons. Lins added that the Foundation continues to work on plans for the Symons Social on November 7th, which will be a large community fundraiser for Symons and Culvers Share Night which will be held June 10th.

9. Innovation Grant project update– Hardy noted that the state has remaining funds left in the grant program, and expects a second round of grant applications to be released this fall, which would cover the next 4 years of funding, which could amount up to about \$120,000 each year over 4 years provided the County transfer Symons to another entity. Representatives from Symons, the Symons Recreation Complex Foundation, the County, the City and the School District will meet this week to further discuss this opportunity along with expectations and capacity each has regarding their involvement with Symons in the future.

10. Building Improvement Update– In addition to HVAC design bids moving to Committee review, Hardy noted that an application was sent in to Senator Tammy Baldwin's office requesting \$750,000 towards an estimated \$1 million cost to renovate Symons with new Family Changing Rooms, updated locker rooms and relocated lobby and reception space. He noted that more should be known around July. Hardy also noted that \$50,000 grants were submitted to T-Mobile and Toro for facility renovations. The Toro grant application would be responded to later this fall, but the T-Mobile response is expected this month.

Action Items:

11. Consider recommending Marty Brewer Nature Trail connection to Allison Park neighborhood – Hardy presented a GIS map showing the current location of the trail along with a recommended spur off the northeast corner to allow for a trailhead access to the Allison Park neighborhood, which is one of the more populated areas in the City, but can only access the trails by walking down highway 80 to the Pine River Trail and around to the front of the campus

property back up to the trails. The new access trailhead would be fairly easy to add and allow for more direct access to the trails and campus area, including the high school property. There is some elevation and it would simply be a dirt/grass surface like the rest of the trail, so would not be ADA access point, but would be moderate walking/hiking not as steep as other trails around the City/County. Worthington moved to recommend that the northeast trailhead access be added to the trail to allow access to the Allison Park neighborhood. Seconded by Perry. Motion carried.

12. Consider future space needs/priorities of Symons Recreation Complex – Hardy reviewed the Family Changing Room priority set previously along with needs to update existing locker rooms and add privacy shower areas. While no action is needed, any additional input or requests should be discussed as we continue to pursue grant funding on these improvements. No action was taken.

Closing:

13. Committee Correspondence – None.

14. Future Agenda Items – Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

15. Adjourn—Lins made a motion to adjourn at 6:25pm. Schultz seconded. Motion carried.