

Symons Recreation Complex Board Minutes June 8, 2026

The Symons Recreation Complex Board met on June 8, 2026 at 5:30 pm. The following people were in attendance: John Cler, Rachel Schultz, Al Lins, Grant Worthington, Mary Miller, Rod Perry, Dave Turk, Steve Downs & Karin Tepley. Staff members Mike Hardy and Kyle Ewing were also present. One member of the public was online.

1. Call to Order - Hardy called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
2. Roll Call
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. Election of Chairperson – Schultz nominated Cler, seconded by Miller. Tepley nominated Turk, seconded by Cler. Ballots were distributed to members. Voting results were 5 for Cler and 4 for Turk. Cler confirmed as Chair.
6. Election of Vice Chair – Perry nominated Turk, seconded by Lins. Schultz moved to close nominations, seconded by Lins. Turk was confirmed as Vice Chair unanimously.
7. Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2026 – Downs moved to approve with a correction in paragraphs 7 and 9 where the word “form” was used instead of the word “from”. Tepley seconded. Motion carried.
8. Public Comment – none

Administrative Reports:

9. Staff Report – Hardy noted that we currently have 1,889 active memberships, which will be the highest ever summer membership total if the trend holds up. 1,203 of those are 12-month memberships signifying continued confidence in the longevity of SRC by members. Also noted were 18 new 7th and 8th grade memberships, under the free summer membership program provided by a Green Bay Packers Foundation grant. Ewing noted that lifeguard trainings were recently completed, and 30 new lifeguards had been hired by the City. Also, Ithaca summer swim lessons began this week and 93 kids have signed up for Swim Team this summer, one of the highest ever recorded and follows about 70 last year and 50 in 2024.
10. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Report – Al Lins noted that the Foundation continues to work on plans for the Symons Social on November 7th and invited everyone to Culvers Share Night which will be held June 10th from 4-8pm with proceeds going to the Foundation.

Action Items:

11. Discuss and Consider Symons Recreation Complex Strategic Plan creation – Hardy reviewed plans to develop a strategic plan for Symons to provide a transparent map to facility and programming goals. The project will begin this fall with significant participation from the public to guide our future plans. Hardy expects to survey staff and current members in the fall, and a public input session will follow in which all members of the public will be invited to discuss needs and opportunities for future Symons operations. Once input is received, the Foundation will review input and determine where they fit in and how they will be involved. The Foundation’s input will be added to the report before bringing to the Symons Board for comments and additional input, with a draft plan following after considering all input and suggestions. Hardy hopes to have the strategic plan completed in early 2027.
12. Discuss and Consider Leasing vs. Purchasing of Future Equipment Replacements – Hardy reviewed the pros and cons of leasing exercise equipment and noted that staff had been discussing the potential of future equipment leasing with the Foundation. If leasing was chosen for future equipment acquisitions, Hardy noted that the lease would need to be held by the County with an MOU between County and Foundation if the Foundation were to contribute towards the lease. Perry asked staff what direction they would prefer. Hardy noted that while we cannot realize the tax benefits of leasing as we are tax exempt, leasing allows for a large replacement of equipment at one time with payments spread out, allowing for easier funding if done through the Foundation. More importantly the warranty and maintenance coverage on leased equipment better addresses maintenance issues that we don’t have enough staff or money for currently. However, there are pros and cons to both purchase and leasing.

Ewing echoed the maintenance advantage and while it is a higher overall cost, there is also the benefit of trading in for new equipment at the end of the lease to ensure new equipment is always coming in. Turk noted that we could probably just lease some of the equipment to try out and see if leasing works for us. Tepley noted that having newer equipment probably leads to a better image and more members. Hardy agreed stating that we have a lot of older equipment that Foundation has been able to replace much of, but many pieces while they worked fine had lots of rust and just gave a poor image to members before staff worked with Foundation to replace almost half of the equipment in the past 2 years. Schultz moved to have staff continue to explore leasing programs to consider as part of 2027 budget planning. Seconded by Downs. Motion carried.

13. Discuss and Consider Potential Plans for Future Inclusive Fitness Playground – Hardy noted that a donor had followed him from Baraboo when he came to Symons 2 years ago with an offer to fund part of an inclusive playground in the County or City. After talking with former County Administrator and noting the County not having a good place available, City Administrator Oliphant contacted Hardy in 2025 to discuss an inclusive playground in Krouskop Park with the city ADA Committee. However, the City was not able to provide the \$100,000 local match to build a \$300,000 playground, so with the County finalizing some of the campus redevelopment plans, the idea to request an area to build the playground there in the future was brought up. Turk moved to continue to explore the possibilities of reserving land and building an inclusive fitness playground near Symons using proceeds from donations, seconded by Perry. Motion carried.

Closing:

13. Committee Correspondence – None.

14. Future Agenda Items – None.

15. Adjourn—Tepley made a motion to adjourn at 6:08pm. Downs seconded. Motion carried.