

Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee

(former Civic Center Committee)

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Alumni Hall, Third Floor Conference Room

Attendees: Charlie Atwood; Rick Dente; Art Dessureau; Paula Dolan; Brent Gagne; Brent Gagne; Jon Valsangiacomo; Burnie Allen; Matt Flaherty; Sue Higby

Others in Attendance: Jeff Bergeron; Jim McWilliams; Tom Baker

Minutes for the September 16, 2026 meeting prepared by Sue Higby.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Charlie Atwood at 8:00 AM.

1. Discussion about meeting minutes for August 12, 2026 meeting took place. Valsangiacomo made a motion to accept the minutes; Art Dessureau seconded his motion. Meeting minutes, prepared by Sue Higby, were accepted with no changes.

2. Visitors and Communications - None

3. AUD Upgrade

Tom Baker described his meeting on Sept. 15 with the Design Team contractors associated with the AUD Reno Project. He noted, "we will be recommending postponing until next year." Approximately \$80,000-\$100,000 has been expended to date. Baker mentioned that USDA Leadership stated we "have until 2029" to complete the project.

Baker stated he would attend the Council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 22 and let them know that due to the recommended postponement, we "will open the AUD for use Oct. 5."

However, Burnie Allen and other members of the Committee discussed concerns about the operation of the AUD and fulfillment of contracts if the heating system fails due to the postponed repair of the old heating plant.

Baker noted that a contingency plan for heating the AUD, should the old system fail mid-season, would involve setting up a temporary boiler in the parking lot (at a cost of approximately \$50,000 per month).

Higby noted that the stop gap approach was expensive; she suggested the early purchase of a boiler given the age/risk involved with moving ahead with the old system. Bergeron noted he would bring this topic to the Council.

Baker stated that he would need to confer with the USDA to ascertain if an early purchase of a boiler would jeopardize the funding.

Several communications from Marketing will be placed on hold until the issue of when the AUD will open becomes crystal clear.

4. AUD Misc. Improvements

Baker stated that "everything is on hold." Atwood will add this topic to the next meeting agenda for Committee discussion and setting priorities. Several activities, such as the removal of the old paint on the underside of the AUD entrance canopy to expose the original metal, were mentioned.

5. Marketing Report – McWilliams

A new entry mat for the BOR was created with funds from Union Mutual;

Jim has distributed brass plaques to the 10+ year supporters of Civic Center properties; very positive feedback has been received.

Jim sent a letter to banner supporters concerning the 8-month closure of the AUD. As it has been recommended now that work will very likely be postponed, there was discussion about how to communicate these various issues surrounding the project to supporters and community members.

Matt Flaherty, who has taken the lead on social media posts, discussed his planning and activities; he welcomes ideas for future posts. He plans to schedule a post every Tuesday and to include key organizational tags in his posts.

6. Staff Report – Baker

Tom provided a written report to the Committee on Sept. 15, and he provided an update during the meeting. A significant topic that he shared involved the condition of the BOR floor and compressors/cooling system, which would likely cost \$1.7-\$2 million to repair/update. A new roof for the structure is on the schedule (at a cost of \$600,000). Tom will provide this update to the Council at its September 22 meeting. His budget for the building is \$25,000.

Other work in progress includes: closing and draining the pool; beginning work on the MERP energy efficiency projects at City Hall; fire alarm design for City Hall; securing funds/plans for “access control” systems (involving key fobs) for certain Barre City buildings; working on the final ratified contract for the Coyotes 25-26 season.

(For more info, please refer to the Buildings and Facilities notes for 9/16/26 submitted by Tom Baker)

Adjournment – Paula Dolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35AM; Matt Flaherty seconded the motion and the Committee concurred.