Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee

(former Civic Center
Committee) Wednesday,
October 14, 2026
Alumni Hall, Third Floor Conference Room

Attendees: Charlie Atwood; Rick Dente; Art Dessureau; Paula Dolan; Brent Gagne; Jon Valsangiacomo; Burnie Allen; Matt Flaherty; Sue Higby
Absence: Matt Flaherty
Others in Attendance: Jeff Bergeron; Jim McWilliams; Tom Baker
Minutes for the October 14, 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 September 16, 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 – Patrick Cushing
    - Cushing and the Committee members made introductions. The discussion focused on the mission/scope of the Committee and an overview of past responsibilities and projects.
      Discussion included a request by the Committee for open, regular communications from the City and an interest in sharing the extensive backgrounds and relationships in the community.
    - Cushing is open to changing the focus of the Committee back to its original emphasis: the buildings on the Hill. The Committee noted their surprise that the Council seemed to know little about the plans for renovations at the AUD, even when minutes from meetings and Jeff Bergeron had been named the liaison to the Council. Where is the bottleneck?
    - Cushing alluded to the possibility of inviting Committees to share information with the Council on a regular basis in order to respond to information needs.

3. BOR Status
    - Tom provided an overview of the pressure tests and leaks that have been identified. He reported that the long-time refrigeration contractor will not work on the project due to liability concerns (concern about losing $25,000 in glycol). A team of "hockey dads" came together to work on repairs, including an approach involving a sleeve over old plastic tubes. (The group will receive future thanks/recognition from the Civic Center Committee/Jim M.
    - If the pressure tests fail, Tom mentioned that a "mat" would possibly serve as a short-term fix, at a price of approximately $100,000.
    - Jeff Bergeron mentioned that the Council was prepared to go to the mat system, if needed. In addition, there is $600,000 in the budget for roof repairs.
    - Art and others on the Committee asked for a condition review of the beams/supports in advance of working on the roof replacement.
    - The Committee received outdated revenue/expense information on use of the BOR.

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According to Tom, the BOR brought in approx. $160,000 and there was $320,000 in expenses. A more thorough assessment was requested.

4. AUD upgrade project/Mic. Improvements
    - Tom updated the plans for the AUD upgrade; these will be reviewed and returned to USDA for their approval. Other aspects of the project, e.g., third party "Clerk of the Works," are ready to go (apparently the Council has approved this) when the project receives approval.
    - Tom reported that the estimated repair for the one boiler in the 2-boiler AUD system was approximately $32 - $35,000. This contrasts to an approximate $50,000 per month cost for a temporary heating system should the boiler fail this winter.
    - The Committee discussed how a potential boiler/heating system failure would be extremely detrimental to the Barre Civic Center Complex and could damage future rentals (e.g., the state tournaments for basketball and wrestling were named).
    - A major concern voiced during the Committee: **Reputational Risk/Damage**.
    - The Committee discussed the potential use of the "Improvement Fund" for a boiler replacement.

5. Marketing Report – Jim
    - Union Mutual has sponsored a new mat for the entrance of the BOR.
    - Jim has delivered the new glass plaques to long-time sponsors, who according to Jim "truly loved them."
    - Jim is considering a "thank you" banner for the dad group involved in the BOR repairs.
    - Jim forecasts approximately $35,000 in banner/dasher renewals in Jan/Feb.
    - The Third Winter Solstice event is coming together nicely (Jan 7/8)
    - Barre will host the legendary High School State B-Ball and Wrestling Tournaments in March.
    - Jim is researching a potential future event for the AUD space that focuses on tattoos (potential use of the BOR if repairs are scheduled).
    - Paula suggested consideration of a "Go Fund Me" campaign for the complex; Jon felt such a campaign would place the AUD locker room in the public eye and attract funding.

6. Staff Report – Tom
    - See the written report submitted by Tom Baker on 10/12/26, and the above remarks by Tom.
    - The Committee requested reports from Tom about key issues concerning the Civic Center Complex in advance of the issues being reported in the local newspaper.

Adjournment – Art made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30Am; Jon seconded the motion and the Committee concurred.

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