

Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee

(former Civic Center Committee)

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025

Alumni Hall, Third Floor Conference Room

- Attendees: Charlie Atwood; Rick Dente; Art Dessureau; Paula Dolan; Brent Gagne; Matt Flaherty; Brent Gagne; Jon Valsangiacomo; Sue Higby
Committee Absence: Burnie Allen
- Others in Attendance: Tom Baker; Tracy Lewis

Minutes for the Dec. 10, 2025 meeting prepared by Sue Higby.

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

1. Minutes for the November 12, 2025 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rick Dente, seconded by Paula Dolan, and affirmed by the Committee.
2. Visitors and Communications

Invited guest Jeff Farrow, Berlin Recreation Coordinator, attended at the end of the meeting, see below.

Tracy Lewis, Barre Partnership, provided a report about the Barre Craft Show, which was well attended on Saturday. According to Tracy there were new vendors and reports about sales by vendors were positive.

Follow-Up: What is the rental rate for this event? What is the contribution to the Building Fund? Could there be 2 events of this type each year?

3. Digital Communications

Matt Flaherty provided a brief report about his collaborations with the Barre Partnership on posts/information and with the Recreation Department. There is some incremental growth, with approximately 109 followers on Facebook and 80-90 on Instagram. Matt is interested in obtaining additional filler content.

4. AUD Upgrade Project

Tom Baker provided a short update. USDA requested RFP and scoring matrices; Tom is pushing for the 1-step Design/Build approach. Diane Drown is the point person at the Department of Agriculture.

5. Civic Center Projects

There was brief discussion about working with DPW for curb cuts in front of the AUD and the potential for adding volleyball to the activities in the AUD. In addition, there was brief discussion about the door(s) at the BOR, focusing on the potential for adding auto unlock/lock systems.

Follow Up: A small study group involving Sue Higby and Jon Valsangiacomo will assess the potential for adding volleyball.

Follow Up: The Committee discussed the need to keep count on event attendees at the AUD, with respect for reports and building capacity issues.

6. Marketing Report

Jim McWilliam was unable to attend the meeting due to an injury.

7. Staff Report

A report (12/10/25) was provided by Baker, focusing on: Public Safety Building RTU replacements; BOR floor and roof replacements (\$1.5 million floor and \$500,000 roof [the roof repair is presented in the next capital budget]); AUD-city hall renovations; and staffing issues.

8. Visitors and Communications

Jeff Farrow, Recreation Coordinator for Berlin attended the meeting at 9AM. He discussed the proposed facility in Berlin (concrete pad with roof) that was turned down by voters; and he described how voters rejected the use of local options taxes for the efforts. As of December 31, no federal funds are available for programs of this type. Looking to the future: They will focus on making available natural ice on heavy snow, managing the rink area for pickle ball participants, and creating a network of paths.

Follow Up: The Committee discussed potential future collaborations.

Other Follow Up: Paula Dolan will obtain a thank you card for the local private donor who supported the scoreboard Project.

Jon Valsangiacomo made a motion to adjourn the Committee meeting at 9:30AM and the Committee affirmed the motion.