

# **Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee**

(former Civic Center Committee)

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Alumni Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

- Attendees: Charlie Atwood; Burnie Allen; Art Dessureau; Rick Dente; Matt Flaherty; Paula Dolan; Jon Valsangiacomo; Brent Gagne; Sue Higby
- Not in Attendance: Jim McWilliam
- Others in Attendance: Tom Baker

Minutes for the February 12, 2025, meeting prepared by Brent Gagne.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Charlie Atwood at 8:02 AM.

1. Minutes for the February 12, 2025 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved, with a motion by Rick Dente, seconded by Jon Valsangiacomo and affirmed by the Committee.
2. Visitors and Communications – None.
3. Civic Center Fund Review

## **Discussion:**

- Jon Valsangiacomo will research historical agreements/materials on the Civic Center Fund so the Committee can clarify its use.
- According to the summary provided, \$163,000 was in the fund (after listed expenditures, some of which were questioned at last meeting).

## **ACTION:**

- Requested information on the budget for next fiscal year.
  - Requested review of the fee structures in place for the building complex (Add to the next agenda)
4. Charges for the Buildings and Facilities Committee

## **Discussion:**

- Potential changes to the Committee description that received Committee approval at the January 2025, meeting will be discussed at the April 2025 meeting following review of the Civic Center Fund history.

5. Congressional Grant Status

## **Discussion:**

- The firm Freeman French Freeman is preparing a scoping assessment (outdoors/indoors) of the project.

- The Committee was assured that \$250,000 of the MERP funds would be used for energy updates recommended for the AUD project.
- The Environmental Review is on hold until the scoping assessment (see above) is completed.
- The funds appropriated by Sen. Sanders may be held by U.S.D.A. (Berlin/Willison). Confirmation needed.

**ACTION:**

- Committee members remain concerned that given the scope of the project and importance of the funding relationship, the project needs a Project Manager.

**6. Staff Report – Tom Baker**

**Discussion:**

- Tom led a discussion about the status of various repair projects and updates, based on a handout he provided in advance to the Committee. Various activities, such as painting the ceiling of the BOR, repairing water damage to BOR panel; screening the AUD floor, adding occupancy sensors that would turn off lights automatically, were among the upcoming projects discussed. (See summary provided by Baker, 3-25)

**ACTION:**

- The Committee returned to the importance of pursuing the relocation of the telecommunication towers to the Hill Complex. The history of this relationship and potential future opportunity needs to be reviewed with the City Manager.

**7. Marketing Report**

**Discussion:**

- The Committee reviewed the successful actions of Jim McWilliam; Burnie Allen, Paula Dolan and others in the community who made the B-Ball Tournament season and the Wrestling Tournament season a success, with high levels of audience attendance.
- Discussion of future use of the space included making contact with Pike Industries.

**Next Meeting:**

- Visitors and Communications: It was suggested to invite someone from the VPA (Lauren Thomas), or the Barre Partnership (Tracy or Board member involved in Marketing) or someone from the Parks and Recreation Committee (Cat Allen/or other person suggested by Matt).
- Matt Flaherty suggested a discussion of Digital Communications for the activities up on the Hill.

The Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:29AM.