

Minutes: Buildings and Facilities Committee

(former Civic Center Committee)

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Alumni Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

- Attendees: Charlie Atwood; Art Dessureau; Rick Dente; Paula Dolan; Matt Flaherty; Brent Gagne; Sue Higby
Committee absence: Burnie Allen; Jon Valsangiacomo; Tom Baker, Staff Representative
 - Others in Attendance: Jim McWilliam; Jeff Bergeron; Michelle LaBarge-Burke
- Minutes for the July 9, 2025 meeting prepared by Sue Higby.

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

1. Minutes for the June 11, 2025 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved, with a motion by Art Dessureau, seconded by Paula Dolan, and affirmed by the Committee.
2. Visitors and Communications – Michelle LaBarge-Burke, Barre City Recreation Coordinator
 - Michelle is the new Recreation Coordinator (formerly in Permits/this is her second week); her background includes higher education, elementary education, and the Barre Opera House.
 - She asked for feedback. Flaherty would like more programs for people his age and Higby would like more programs for elders and dance programs making use of the sprung floor.
 - Atwood suggested reaching out to Guy Norwood/Barre Town.
 - We concluded that opportunities for using the facilities are immense and we are hoping for increased use, working with Michelle.
3. Visitors and Communications – Jeff Bergeron
 - As a member of City Council, he will be a liaison to the Buildings and Facilities Committee. He will be making verbal reports to City Council.
4. Digital Communications – Matt Flaherty
 - Flaherty noted that the manager was supportive of the idea to enhance public knowledge of activities and opportunities up on the hill.
 - Flaherty will draft a 1-pager about potential posts to social media and review the social media policy.
 - His goal is to show off the facilities/events and share them broadly.
 - He is looking for content ideas and some volunteers.
 - Event listings using Facebook are an additional opportunity.
 - Flaherty will be collaborating with Michelle/Rec Coordinator and BP to broaden the reach of various social media campaigns.

5. Auditorium Upgrade Project

- Atwood met with a representative from Freeman French Freeman (FFF) the week earlier to review the AUD. Their discussion focused on ADA compliant restrooms. (The topic of moving the stair wall (a massive and expensive project) was discussed during the tour. Other discussion topics included: locker rooms, doors/passageways and the kitchen area (e.g., remove the dishwasher and use space for caterers). The project appears to be moving forward.

INFO NEED: Higby will provide contact person from FFF with information on the NU senior project. (Needs contact info)

6. Marketing Report – Jim McWilliam

- The BGA has donated \$2,000 for the pre-Thanksgiving basketball event.
- There will be an article published in The World newspaper about the NSB chair donation.
- Banner/dasher sales/advertising going well. Both of the key buildings are full.
- Plaques approved at the last meeting are in progress.

7. Staff Report – Tom Baker

- Baker was absent; no written report was provided.

8. Future Visitors & Communications

- The following ideas were discussed for future meetings: Trappers Assn; VT Dept of Marketing & Tourism; Kristin, director of the Aldrich Public Library; Donors/sponsors

Paula Dolan made a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting at 9:06AM; Art Dessureau seconded the motion, and the Committee concurred.