

**BENTON H. WILCOXON
MUNICIPAL ICE COMPLEX
BOARD OF CONTROL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

All motions passed unanimously unless otherwise stated.

MINUTES OF October 16, 2019:

Presiding Officer: David Edwards

Call to Order: David called the meeting to order at 5:17pm

Board Members:

Present: David Edwards
Susan Phelan
Pat Sanders
Jan Davis
Ralph Stone

Absent: Fred Hudson
Ed Ragland
Sasha Sealy
Kimberly Ford

Facility Representatives: Steve Clough
Chantay Naeger
Wendy Ruch
Dita Dotson-Bowser

City Representatives: None

Visitors: Anna Anderson, Amanda Kemp, Tracy Brown, Lisa Novak, Anthony Holden, Melissa Miller & Susan Higgins

Minutes: Approved

City Update: Agenda and information from October 8th's meeting with John Hamilton has been posted on the Ice Complex Website.

Public Comments

- a. General Public:** Anna Anderson wanted to reiterate what she said month. She wanted to know if there's been any further developments on securing rink time elsewhere while the Iceplex is closed and if one rink or the other is going to be open at certain times during the renovation- even if it's a week here and a week there. She said to shut down for 8 months is going to be really tough on a lot of people, not only the children, but the teams coming in for next season. She's sure the Iceplex, financially, is going to really take a big hit. Taking hockey away from her son for 8 months or more is going to impact him and her family tremendously.

Amanda Kemp's son is very passionate about hockey and has been playing here at the rink for 6 years. Her daughter was a figure skater for about 2 ½ years. This is home to her. When she bought her house, she wouldn't let her husband buy a house that was more than 10 minutes away from the rink. The hockey season for her son begins August 1. He has tryouts prior to that. He has to be able to train in the off season to be ready. She feels taking hockey away from him next year will cripple him.

Tracy Brown spoke at the City Council meeting and asked the BOC to be their advocates for figure skating, hockey and curling and to not start renovation or construction until there is a plan in writing so that they can plan out the hockey year. They need to be able to plan out when tryouts and team meetings are and when they have weekends home or away. She says we have a lot of people from out of town that come here and it's travel and tourism to Huntsville. She requested that we clean up the front entrance before this weekend when we have league people coming in.

Lisa Novak reiterated her concerns from last month's meeting and said she mentioned something in the car about the rink closing to her son to gauge his impression. He was upset. She too would like a concrete plan that is shared with the parents here because a bunch of misinformation is going around. She believes that half of the figure skating parents don't know this is coming and thinks they're going to have a shock when it does. She said her husband came up with an idea that the City of Huntsville has an outdoor ice rink or possibly a rink inside of an old store and asked if these options were considered. If this rink closes for that amount of time, she believes there will be more psychological effects to these kids than we can even dream of at this point. She stated she doesn't have any problems going in front of elected officials and talking to them and trying to work things out.

Anthony Holden has a family pass and skates here multiple times a week, year-round. He believes if there's not a plan to have ice available, those kids are all going to suffer. He is concerned of the lack of announced alternatives. He works for the government and when he does a project like this, he has to do a feasibility study and lay out clearly what all the alternatives are and the ones that are not feasible, we take those off the table. He wants to know if the rink has had one of those done. If there was, he would like to see what all the alternatives were besides the one that would have us shutting the rink down. He also said there are architects that have been contacted that said they could do a new rink, or new arena rather, cheaper than what it's costing for the renovation. So, as part of the announced alternatives, he'd like to see some hard data that says yes, it's more cost effective to shut the rink down and renovate than to build a new rink.

Melissa Miller can't fathom the impact that the shutdown is going to have on her son. She doesn't see how we can expect travel teams to stay competitive if we shut down for 6-8 months. They already struggle to be competitive. They go to other tournaments and some of the kids are really not at the level of the other teams already. She believes that the renovations aren't going to bring in tournaments if Huntsville kids can't play. She also feels like this is really a detrimental time to be shutting us down with Havoc winning back to back championships. Instead of riding that wave and bringing in more hockey players, she feels we're saying "Sorry, we're shutting down and all of you guys who are now interested are just going to have to wait." She believes kids who don't have the bug already aren't going to wait or come back and will find another sport and Nashville and Birmingham are not viable options

Susan Higgins' husband and two sons play hockey. She says that hockey takes up a huge amount of their disposable income and is a very very important part of her family dynamic. Susan feels there are so many rumors out there about the hockey rink closing or not closing or partially closing and alternative spaces.

She thinks that not a lot of planning has gone into it and communication to the user groups and parents and kids and players has been poor for some reason. She says that nobody's clear on what's going on. She thinks hockey is growing here and more and more kids are engaged and we need to treat this with respect and plan with all the user groups

b. NAHA: None

c. Skating Club: None

President's Report: David said today was the grand opening of the new addition and he hoped that everyone was able to tour the new locker rooms. News stations, channel 19 & 48 were covering the ribbon cutting ceremony and conducting interviews.

FRIA Report: The FRIA board did not meet in September 2019.

Main Checking Account	\$ 571.47
M. Dotson Sponsorship/Scholarship	\$ 1,468.23
FRIA Curling Club	\$ 3,598.15
FRIA Capital Improvements	<u>\$ 10,824.54</u>
Grand Total	\$ 16,462.39

Financial Report: Steve Clough provided an itemized description of the September financial reports stating this is a draft copy until the annual audit has been completed. The following key items were highlighted:

- Public/Private accounts had net gain of \$4755
- Account 4030.14 includes the TPH Jr. Predators ice revenue
- Figure Skating revenues are slightly down from previous year due to new 8-week sessions vs monthly contracts
- Gross Profit is up \$30,069 over 2018 NOTE: There were 8 days of closure last September due to compressor failure
- Net income is (\$28,180.64). This is 20K+ better than September 2018

Facility Financials:

General Checking Account	\$ 120,046.76
Capital Account	\$ 231,205.15
Reserves Account	<u>\$ 30,015.38</u>
Grand Total	\$ 381,267.29

Senior Manager's Report: Phase 2 construction was started this week with ground work on the North end of the building. They are working on underground water systems in preparation to pour the concrete pad. On October 8th, John Hamilton held a meeting with the prime user groups, NAHA, TPH, Fight Club, HSSTA, SCH & Havoc. The agenda from the meeting is posted on the Ice Complex website. Next weekend we are hosting the ACHA Division 3 Club Hockey Showcase. It's our hope to be able to host this event annually. Even though the ribbon cutting ceremony was today, we have not yet received the certificate of occupancy from the city. The space cannot be utilized until that certificate has been received, we hope to have it tomorrow.

Incident Report: As reported

HSSTA Report: As reported

HR Report: As reported

Maintenance Report: As reported

Committee Reports: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Wendy presented 1 policy regarding rehires. It has not been approved by the city, but once it is, the BOC will vote on it.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:53pm. The next scheduled board meeting is November 20th, 2019 at 5:15pm.