

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

**All motions passed unanimously unless otherwise stated.**

**MINUTES OF June 24, 2019:**

**Presiding Officer:** David Edwards

**Call to Order:** David called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

**Board Members:**

**Present:** David Edwards  
John Green  
Tyler Kirby  
Sasha Sealy  
Pat Sanders  
Jan Davis  
Ralph Stone

**Absent:** Kimberly Ford  
Ed Ragland

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

**Hockey Representatives:** None

**City Representatives:** Trey Riley, Bruce Pitts, John Hamilton

**Visitors:** Ryan Renaud, Ryan Crim, Ryan McCormick, numerous others

**Minutes:** Approved

**City Update:** Steve thanked everyone for being there and introduced John Hamilton. John spoke about emails he and City Council members have been receiving and feels there is a confusion between the Ice Complex Management and the BOC. John explains that significant business decisions ultimately reside with the BOC. He encourages clear expectations be set on how a proposed change comes to fruition. Part of those expectations, he feels, should include a proper analysis and complete understanding of the impact of proposed change. From the City side, they stand ready to assist and the legal team is available for any legalities that arise. John said the Ice Complex has operated very well and over the years has been extremely successful in a fiscally sound way as a City recreational facility.

## Public Comments

**a. General Public:** Wendy explained the public comment procedures and encouraged anyone not fully able to express themselves in the allotted time to please email the BOC with additional concerns.

Ryan Renaud was the first to comment. He mentioned that he had reached out to 3 different BOC members over the past 6 months but was never able to connect with them. He is concerned about correspondence he received from a league director that included a letter from Steve Clough to the BOC about adult hockey. He was asked to be at the meeting to voice concerns that decisions being voted on have not been presented to the hockey community. He wanted to make sure that the BOC does its due diligence in making an informed decision. He's asking for transparency and accountability from the BOC and wants to know how a restructure will make scheduling ice times easier. Ryan thanked Steve for reaching out to him and his clarity on needed improvements.

Ryan Crim spoke next. He started off by saying he was never contacted directly about changes being voted and that he found out about it from a bcc email. He disagrees with Steve Clough's letter in regards to minimal hockey changes over the past 10 years. Ryan pointed out there have been multiple new leagues formed as well as new developmental programs. He is asking the BOC for a full business analysis before voting takes place. He has concerns about the Ice Complex's ability to compete with private businesses such as TPH. He ends by saying he is disappointed that no one in the hockey community was contacted about this change.

Ryan McCormick was the last to comment. He expressed that NAHA and TPH have had a good partnership with the Ice Complex over time and gave insight on the background of NAHA. NAHA has been around since 1973 and before that was affiliated with the YMCA. NAHA is currently a USA Hockey provider that operates youth and adult hockey and has a governing board in place. He states there has been great growth in hockey and a 30-35% growth in adult hockey participation that NAHA operates, according to USA Hockey numbers. Ryan says that NAHA wants to continue having a good partnership with the Ice Complex.

**b. NAHA:** None

**c. Skating Club:** None

**President's Report:** None

**FRIA Report:** No report for FRIA

Main Checking Account	\$ 259.47
M. Dotson Sponsorship/Scholarship	\$ 1,456.23
FRIA Curling Club	\$ 3,586.15
FRIA Capital Improvements	<u>\$ 10,859.04</u>
Grand Total	\$ 16,160.89

**Financial Report:** Financials were emailed to each BOC Member, no questions presented.

<b>Facility Financials:</b>	General Checking Account	\$ 133,779.90
	Capital Account	\$ 91,165.62
	Reserves Account	<u>\$ 30,084.41</u>
	Grand Total	\$ 255,029.93

**Senior Manager's Report:** We have approximately 4700 people whom receive a monthly newsletter and periodic updates about renovations, programs and other facility information. The Mini-Plex was scheduled to open on April 8<sup>th</sup> but due to COVID-19, the opening date was delayed to May 11<sup>th</sup>. Ice at the Mini-Plex is scheduled through September 26<sup>th</sup>. The skating school and TPH have been the predominate users of this ice. The biggest challenges with the Mini-Plex are the size and limited number of skaters allowed on the ice due to COVID-19 restrictions. We've been given the go ahead from the City that as of June 15<sup>th</sup>, contact sports are allowed. We still have guidelines in place such as mask requirements, check-in policies and sanitation procedures. We want to do everything we can to make patrons feel safe coming in and out of this facility. Steve met with Ryan McCormick about travel hockey tryouts and they were able to obtain limited ice time at the VBC in early June. VBC summer ice time has drastically changed due to rescheduling canceled events. The month of July is now completely unavailable and we are working with them on possible ice time in August. The main challenge for us and user groups is consistent ice times from week to week. There are many unknowns as we prepare for the Ice Complex to re-open after renovations and the Fall hockey season. Locker room capacity, on-ice limitations and sanitizing schedules all play a big part of how we successfully and safely operate moving forward. As of today, renovations are on time. A few BOC members met Steve for walk-throughs and were happy to be able to see the magnitude of work being done. The end result will be incredible and everything but the skin of the building will have been renovated.

**Incident Report:** As reported

**HSSTA Report:** As reported

**HR Report:** As reported

**Maintenance Report:** As reported

**Committee Reports:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Steve presented the new Ice Sports Center logo and mobile friendly website design. Sr. Management felt it would be good timing for a rebrand and do something new in correlation with the re-opening of the facility. Ralph Stone gave some insight on the Sports Commission's rebranding process that is currently underway. In line with our intent, they are wanting to rebrand to create public awareness of what the Sports Commission does and that it's a recognizable entity within the Huntsville community. Ralph feels this fresh

new start adds a lot of value. The name Ice Sports Center will be a dba name change only. The Benton H. Wilcoxon Municipal Ice Complex will remain the legal name of the facility. Jan asked if we would consider honoring Mr. Wilcoxon in another manner other than the legal name. Pat asked how the new logo idea came about. Steve explained that we worked with a web designer who provided several logo options based on input from Ice Complex staff. Adult hockey discussions will be tabled until the July BOC meeting. Steve will provide the BOC with information regarding the new proposal and is asking for skating community input. Tyler Kirby wants to first have the question of “why change is needed” answered. He also stated that current separate leagues formed due to dissatisfaction over various elements within the NAHA adult hockey committee and asked Steve to consider the current competition aspect of adult hockey. Tyler also spoke about the realization that the demand for ice time is greater than the supply and to look into adjusting ice rates and utilizing more available hours to remedy this issue. He wants the entire hockey community to be able to see the proposal and hear all comments from the public. Tyler believes that SAHA, NAHA and TPH organizations provide superior hockey options for the community and wants all of these aspects considered before a vote happens. Pat proposed having a committee meeting before an official proposal presentation is made.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm. The location of the next scheduled board meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> is the City Council Chambers.