

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

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

**MINUTES OF September 16, 2020:**

**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  
Ralph Stone  
Kimberly Ford  
Ed Ragland

**Absent:** Jan Davis

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

**Hockey Representatives:** None

**City Representatives:** None

**Visitors:** Troy Skinner, Tracy Brown, Evan Wagner

**Minutes:** Approved

**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 Iceplex Board of Control (BoC) with additional concerns.

Troy Skinner was the first to comment. He was speaking as Executive Director of the Alabama Amateur Hockey Players Association (AAHPA). He thanked David Edwards and the Iceplex senior staff for a productive meeting to discuss the future of the AAHPA. The AAHPA meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Iceplex BoC members can contact Troy for an invite to the AAHPA meetings. Mr. Skinner provided a report on adult hockey registrations and activities at the Von Braun Civic Center (VBCC). The AAHPA was creating bylaws.

Tracy Brown spoke next. She spoke as a parent representative of the

AAHPA. She spoke on the COVID policy of allowing one parent per youth player to enter the VBCC. She noted that parents with siblings had to wait outside and asked the Iceplex BoC to consider relaxing the current policy.

Evan Wagner spoke next. He spoke as a parent of youth hockey players. Mr. Wagner also spoke on the COVID policy. He also asked for consideration in relaxing the attendance policy of one parent per youth hockey player.

**b. NAHA:** None

**c. Skating Club:** None

**President's Report:** David Edwards read a letter from the VBCC regarding the Iceplex's partnership with them to provide ice activities. The VBCC noted that all scheduling was done through the Iceplex staff and in conjunction with Iceplex staff and the Iceplex BoC had developed a plan for keeping all participants safe in a pandemic environment.

**City Updates:** The Iceplex has a subscription with GOTO meeting. This is the virtual platform that would be used in the event the Iceplex BoC was not able to hold a meeting in person. Under the Governor's current order, the Iceplex BoC could not hold a regular meeting even if public participation could be accommodated. The BoC could only conduct business needed for minimal essential function of the Iceplex.

**FRIA Report:** This was included in the Senior Manager's report.

Main Checking Account	\$ 140.90
M. Dotson Sponsorship/Scholarship	\$ 2,695.23
FRIA Curling Club	\$ 2,715.15
FRIA Capital Improvements	<u>\$ 10,838.04</u>
Grand Total	\$ 16,389.32

**Financial Report:** Financials were emailed to each Iceplex BoC member. Steve Clough noted that the Huntsville Havoc Hockey Club was hosting a free agent camp in October and planned to allow spectators to watch a scrimmage game. Operations of this event, including COVID protocols, were solely the responsibility of the Havoc.

**Facility Financials:**

General Checking Account	\$ 41,246.32
Capital Account	\$ 91,201.25
Reserves Account	<u>\$ 21,697.27</u>
Grand Total	\$ 154,144.84

**Senior Manager's Report:** The Iceplex had the option to purchase the dasher boards, chain link fencing, ice mats and glycol used at the Mini-Plex. The senior staff did not recommend this investment.

Mr. Clough thanked the AAHPA for their efforts in working with the Iceplex staff.

The UAH hockey season was delayed, and their ice time removed until their season begins. On game days for the UAH and the Havoc, the Iceplex is not allowed to use the VBCC. Delayed seasons for the UAH and the HAVOC are a positive for our use of the facility.

Renovations at the Iceplex hit a major milestone with the installation of

ice. The dehumidification systems were operational. Installation of ice should be complete within two weeks on both rinks. Projected completion date for the renovations was late November to early December. The City was in discussions with the contractor to open Rink One early.

- Incident Report:** As reported
- HSSTA Report:** As reported
- HR Report:** As reported
- Maintenance Report:** As reported
- Committee Reports:** The Finance Committee presented the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. A motion to approve the budget was made and passed.
- Unfinished Business:** The decision was made not to purchase the equipment at the Mini-plex.
- New Business:** Mr. Clough has been working with the VBCC on measures to keep participants in ice activities safe. Positive cases attributed to ice activities would mean a loss of revenue while the facility was closed and cleaned. VBCC staff and Mr. Clough wanted to get through an upcoming travel hockey weekend before the current protocols were reevaluated. Since locker rooms were not available at the VBCC, four zones were created for teams so there was separation for each group. Cleaning of each zone was done each morning. Sanitizing wipes and hand cleaner stations were set up at each zone and in the spectator area.
- Tyler Kirby asked who the VBCC and Mr. Clough reached out to for guidance on the COVID policy. Mr. Kirby had talked to the Alabama Department of Public Health and he stated Department of Health thought spectators could be accommodated. Mr. Kirby wanted to know what number of spectators could be allowed.
- Mr. Clough discussed broadcasting hockey games within the VBCC. LiveBarn, a hockey streaming service, has been contacted to install their system at no cost the Iceplex.
- An email suggestion made by a parent was discussed. The parent suggested a system similar to that used by the Hampton Cove Swim Complex. It would create a system for spectators to sign-up on a first come-first serve basis until the number of participants allowed in the facility was reached.
- Mr. Clough noted the cost issue with additional persons entering the VBCC. These costs include monitoring and cleaning which require additional staff and thus additional cost which would be passed on to the users. An additional issue was the reliance on travel hockey team members and parents to perform the monitoring tasks that TPH has been performing. Adult hockey faced a similar situation. Keeping track of who was in the facility would be problematic.
- Mr. Kirby stated that the Alabama High School Athletic Association said their member organizations were not responsible for contact tracing. He did not feel the Iceplex should be either.
- Dita Dotson-Bowser discussed the development of COVID protocols. USA Hockey and USA Figure Skating guidelines were incorporated along with other ice activity industry suggestions. Mrs. Dotson-Bowser suggested we not be reactive to community comments but base our protocols on what was best for our participants. It was noted that the Alabama Department of Health guidelines

were minimal standards.

Sasha Sealy discussed comments she had heard from Dr. David Spillers, Huntsville Hospital CEO, at the City of Huntsville's weekly COVID briefing. The current seven-day hospitalization rate was trending upward. Spikes from the Labor Day holiday were expected 14 to 21 days later. Mrs. Sealy wanted to see the existing protocols remain in place for the time being.

Mr. Kirby stated the intent of protocols was to keep hospitals from being overloaded. Preventing the spread of the virus was not possible nor the intent of the protocols. The Iceplex BoC should not be making policies on COVID but should take the recommendations of the Alabama Department of Public Health. The skating community should be free to make their own choices and assume the risks they take.

Mrs. Sealy spoke again. She agreed that COVID could be prevented, but it could be minimized. Mrs. Sealy also expressed concern with loss of revenue should the VBCC be closed due to an outbreak.

Kim Ford noted that the policy in place was based on industry guidance. Mrs. Ford also suggested we take a cautious approach.

Pat Sanders asked how the results from the upcoming travel weekend would be used to determine how we proceed with evaluating the COVID policy.

Chantay Naeger noted that there are 123 seats available in the area designated for hockey spectators at the VBCC. This availability was based on their staff's ability to monitor and clean.

Mr. Clough had reached out to Total Package Hockey for their input on the COVID policy. He noted that there were still instances of persons not complying with the policy.

Mrs. Dotson-Bowser expressed the concern of young children allowed to roam throughout the facility without supervision. Mr. Kirby asked Mr. Skinner if he could reach out to his parents to come up with ideas to keep the kids supervised.

John Green noted that the 123 seats were comprised of groups of seats. These groups consist of two to four adjacent seats with seats in between blocked from use. This reduced the number of seats available as two persons sitting in a group of four seats renders the remaining two seats unavailable to those outside their family.

Mr. Green also expressed that enforcement is key to keeping participants safe. Some participants are not complying with the current policy. Spectators and coaches at a local football game were not complying with the State's Safer at Home Order. While some may not be concerned about COVID, we need to ensure that those who are feel safe to participate in our activities.

Mrs. Naeger noted that the VBCC stated that allowing more persons to enter the facility would result in a rate increase due to additional staffing requirements. Mr. Kirby suggested we find out what those costs would be and see how our user groups react.

Wendy Ruch discussed new Iceplex policies concerning Sections 1, 3, and 4. The draft policies were emailed the week prior to the meeting. Motions were made to approve the sets of policies presented and the motions were passed. Policies in Section 2 relate to employees and would be discussed later. The remainder of the policies in Section 1 would be presented at the next meeting.

Mrs. Ruch also discussed delaying approval of the bylaws until the City Council discussed changes to the ordinance that governs the Iceplex BoC and its operation.

Mrs. Ruch noted that the name change approved at the last meeting requires that every policy be updated to reflect this change. She suggested that a

block vote incorporating this change be made later.

Mr. Clough wanted to find a way to honor Mr. Benton Wilcoxin and incorporate the recognition into the current renovations.

The City had agreed to update the landscaping for the Iceplex with work expected to begin in October. The City was looking to expand the parking and parking lot lighting. The City will also address updates to the road front signage. A new connecting road between the Iceplex and John Hunt park was also mentioned. Mrs. Sealy suggested it be named after Mr. Wilcoxin.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm. The next scheduled board meeting is Oct 21<sup>st</sup> at the City Council Chambers.