

Buffalo Community Center Advisory Board Minutes

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Buffalo Community Center of the City of Buffalo, Minnesota, held a regular meeting at the Buffalo Community Center / Game Room on the 2nd day of February, 2023.

Members Present: Mary Kaye Kath, Darlene Bechtold, Fred Naaktgeboren, Jason Thornton, Geri Bokusky, Lisa Hendricks, Kim Carlson (non-voting member)

Staff Present: Adam Leiferman, Teri Welter, Kellie McConville (arrived late)

Members Absent: Brad Dahl (Council Liaison)

CALL TO ORDER

Kath called the meeting to order at 2:04pm

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 1 MEETING MINUTES

Naaktgeboren made a motion to approve the November advisory board minutes as presented, Bechtold 2^{nds} the motion, with all voting in favor.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Addition to share the latest news about the Buffalo Cinema

OPEN FORUM

Leiferman gave an update about the Buffalo Cinema and some interest that the city has shown in that within the last few weeks. It was shared that the cinema has been for sale for years and the asking price of the building has been out of reach and lacking a plan on what to do with it. The location and public interest in the building has been one reason why it has also been of interest to the city. Recently, the owner has shown that he is willing to lower the price. This has created more interest for the city to buy. With some of the interest in downtown restrooms, theatre, programs for seniors, etc, the city feels that there is enough vision to explore the purchase more seriously. Leiferman shared that the city is only at the point of talking to the seller and that no offers have been made.

Naaktgeboren expressed a need for more meeting space and asked what timeline we are looking at for moving to that building. Leiferman could not answer that for certain but leaned towards multiple years versus anything sooner.

Thornton expressed his interest in the purchase and believes, "if you build it they will come" and feels that a downtown location would be fitting. Carlson also sees that a cinema location would still serve many of the current Community Center daily users who live in the nearby apartments while also meeting the needs of others in the community. Parking was expressed as a concern by a few of the board members.

Leiferman shared that the facility study has been submitted and that we are currently in a processing phase to take the information they have given us and figure out how to move forward. Leiferman shared that the study results give us some direction on what the current facility needs to meet the current programs. All outcomes lead to tearing this building down and starting new. The board expressed that rebuilding the center, at its current location, doesn't lead to a new community center which the public envisions and would be limited to the space of the city block where it currently stands.

Kath recapped some of the minutes from the past meetings without any further discussion. Leiferman suggested we introduce the new board members and lead off with the community center advisory board having a large number of applications to chose from. Staff recommendation was approved by council to extend Mary Kay Kath and Geri

Brokusky to additional 3 year terms. Also approved was a new member, Lisa Hendricks, for a 1 year term. Hendricks shared a little about her current job position in the community and that she looks forward to learning more about the Community Center and ways she can contribute to the team.

RECAP AND UPCOMING NEWS

Naaktgeboren asked how many are on this advisory board. Leiferman said that all seats are full. The exact number according to the bylaws is seven (7) voting members, which includes the city council liaison.

Leiferman gave a recap of the Winter Break Party and that we are seeing new users to the community center. All registrations were done on CivicRec and that online service is being utilized more by staff and the public. Brokusky asked who uses CivicRec.

Leiferman shared that the majority of the users, at this time, will be the parents who only have free time in the evening after their kids are sleeping. This is a convenient way to find out more information about events and register from their phone or computer without having to call during business hours.

Welter shared with the group what events are planned for Buffalo Strong Week. She has been attending meetings with the staff involved in planning the week and making many good connections in the community. Carlson added the movie presentation at the school called Angst. She shared how to register for the movie, explained what the film is about and about the panel discussion held afterwards. There is limited space available so register asap if you want to join.

Brokusky complimented staff about the rescheduled Holiday party. She was impressed that staff put in the extra effort to make the day special for those who attended, despite the change in date after the holidays.

Welter shared information on some of the upcoming family fun nights and that everyone is invited to join in those events.

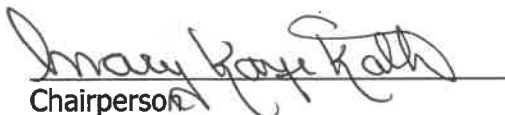
Thornton gave a recap of Gamathon event on New Years Day. He said they had a good turnout and the center was busy all day long. Leiferman complimented his efforts for the 2nd Friday of the month RPG gaming nights. Attendance is good at about 30 people per event.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2nd at 2pm. This will follow our regularly scheduled meeting times which is the first Thursday of odd months.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Brokusky and 2nd by Bechtold, with all voting in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM.


Chairperson


Secretary or City Staff Member