



**\*\*This summary of actions is provided prior to the WCRTFB Board approval of the official Board Meeting Minutes at the next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting\*\***

---

City of Loves Park, City of Rockford, City of South Beloit, County of Winnebago,  
Village of Cherry Valley, Village of Machesney Park, Village of Rockton, Village of Roscoe;  
Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Rockford Park District

---

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 27 2021**

1:00 p.m.

Mercyhealth Sportscore 2 - Indoor Sports Center  
8800 E. Riverside Blvd, Loves Park, IL 61111

### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Winnebago County Tourism Facility Board was called to order by WCRTFB Chairman, Ian Linnabary at 1:03 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Greg Jury, Mayor Tom McNamara, Mayor John Peterson, Winnebago County Chairman Proxy Patrick Thompson, John Groh President & CEO Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Ian Linnabary Rockford Park District Board representative, and Jay Sandine Rockford Park District Executive Director.

(82.1% representation)

Absent: Mayor Steve Johnson, Mayor Jim Claeysen, Mayor Ted Rehl, Mayor Mark Szula, and Board Co-Chair Bobbie Holzwarth.

### **Public Comment**

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the Board.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Motion** by Mr. McNamara, seconded by Mr. Jury, that the Board **approve** the following item on the Consent Agenda:

A. July 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

**Approved** 4(ayes) 0 (nays) 0 (abstain) 4(absent) (82.1%) by voice vote.

### **Financial Update: Hotel Tax Receipts**

RPD Chief Financial Officer Penny Christians reviewed hotel tax revenues received through September 2021. Although we have received approximately \$57,000 more than the same time-period in 2020, receipts continue to be affected by COVID-19. In spite of this, we are still on track to have adequate funding to make required debt service payments.

## **Updates from the RACVB and RPD**

Mercyhealth Sportscore Manager Louis Mateus presented an update on indoor and outdoor events held over the summer months at the MHSC2 facility, and shared that there continues to be a shortage of hotel rooms available in the area for larger tournaments that has caused some tournaments to be split into multiple weekends to accommodate players and families.

RPD Superintendent Danielle Potter shared an update on tournament activities at UW Health Sports Factory. She reported that due to Illinois mask mandates five events have been cancelled for the coming year, and we anticipate a challenging first quarter for the facility in 2022.

RACVB Vice President of Sales & Service Lindsay Arellano reported on the Opening Weekend Tournament at the UW Health Sports Factory which had participation from 49 colleges, and athletes from 9 states. Ms. Arellano, Ms. Potter and Mr. Mateus reviewed prospective tournaments being discussed and negotiated for next year at RCF facilities, and in the region.

RPD Executive Director Jay Sandine invited everyone to attend a celebration to be held on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> for Louis Mateus, to recognize his appointment to the United States Youth Soccer Governing Board.

RACVB President & CEO John Groh shared reports on hotel occupancy comparing this year to 2019. The numbers are still down 14% and revenue down 12% within this calendar year, but things are improving and trending in the right direction. There was a discussion of rising local hotel room rates, lack of room availability, and alternative accommodations that could be developed to help address the gap and increase the number of people we can accommodate locally.

## **Other Board Discussion**

Mr. Mateus shared the need to consider expanding the number of turf fields we have available to continue to attract large tournaments to MHSC2. The Board discussed the costs involved in adding fields, and the importance of the location of the fields. Operational costs for staffing and maintenance of additional fields must also be included when considering costs for expansion of the facility.

RPD Superintendent Dan Jacobson shared that repairs on the roof of MHSC2 Mega Center are still pending due to the lack materials available. He also announced that the UW Health Sports Factory location has been selected for solar panel installation through the Illinois “Solar For All” program, which is estimated to save a minimum of 30% on energy costs for that facility. Installation of solar panels is planned to take place in 2022.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** by Mr. McNamara, seconded by Mr. Jury that the Board **adjourn** the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

**Approved** 4 (ayes) 0 (nays) 0 (abstain) 4 (absent) (82.1%) by voice vote.

---

Board Chair, Ian Linnabary

---

Board Vice-Chair, Bobbie Holzwarth

BOARD APPROVED: