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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

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## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, February 10, 2022**

1:30 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 Vice Chair Bobbie Holzwarth at 1:33 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Steve Johnson, Mayor Greg Jury, Mayor Tom McNamara (Proxy Todd Cagnoni), Mayor John Peterson, Winnebago County Chairman (Proxy Jas Bilich), John Groh President & CEO Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Bobbie Holzwarth Board Vice Chair and Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Board Representative.

(90.1% representation)

Absent:, Mayor Jim Claeysen, Mayor Ted Rehl, Mayor Mark Szula, and RPD Executive Director Jay Sandine.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- A. September 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- B. WCRTFB Board Meeting Schedule for 2022

**Approved** 5(ayes) 0 (nays) 0 (abstain) 3(absent) (90.1%) by voice vote.

### **Updates from RACVB**

Mr. Groh shared that a grant application has been submitted to the Economic Development Association (EDA) with a proposal for a \$350,000 grant that would allow for a deep analysis on the health of the hospitality, travel, and outdoor recreation industries in Winnebago and Boone Counties to develop an updated regional travel and outdoor recreation Master Plan. Mr. Groh also updated the Board on the region's progress on recovering from the pandemic based on a Tourism Economics lodging analysis report.

RACVB Vice President of Sales & Service Lindsay Arellano reviewed a list of the RACVB and RPD joint efforts for tournaments and events over the past months. Ms. Arellano and Mr. Louis Mateus provide a review of upcoming tournaments including the return of the Wheelchair Rugby tournament and Puri Cup in April, and the international GFNY Cycling Marathon that will be coming to the region in August, 2022.

### **Updates from RPD**

Superintendent of Operations, Dan Jacobson reviewed the Park District's EDA grant application for \$8 million dollars to develop a stadium, new entrance and other improvements at Clarence Hicks Memorial Sports Park. He shared updates on the Riverview Ice House rehab construction, the construction of an indoor equine facility at Lockwood Park, shoreline stabilization at Shorewood Park, and grant funds received to make improvements at Mercyhealth Sportscore 2. The repair of the roof on the MHSC2 Mega Center is still on hold awaiting construction materials.

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

RPD Chief Financial Officer Penny Christians reviewed hotel tax revenues received through February 2022, noting that revenues started to improve in the last few months of 2021. She noted the additional principal payment of \$301,979.73 made in 2021, and shared that the results of the annual audit of the WCRTFB accounts will be provided at the next regular meeting of the Board.

### **Other Board Discussion**

Mr. Groh inquired about the status of the transfer of ownership of the UW Health Sports Factory. City of Rockford and Park District staff said they are currently finalizing that transaction now that financial requirements of a grant with the State of Illinois have been completed.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion** by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Jury that the Board **adjourn** the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

**Approved** 5 (ayes) 0 (nays) 0 (abstain) 3 (absent) (90.1%) by voice vote.

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Board Vice-Chair, Bobbie Holzwarth

Attest:

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Board Assistant Secretary, Jennifer Peterson

BOARD APPROVED: