

THE MONUMENT

MINUTES FOR THE MONUMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rapid City, South Dakota

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Estes, Chair; Charity Doyle, Vice-Chair; Gary Brown, Member; and via tele-conference: Tim Johnson, Member, and Jason Lambert, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Baltzer, Executive Director; Tracy Heitsch, Deputy Director/Finance; Jayne Kraemer, Deputy Director/Events; David Owen, Stage/Production Manager; Teresa Dringman, Accounting Clerk; Stacie Granum, Visit Rapid City; Jared Vasquez, Rapid City Area Schools; Jordan Bauer, Rapid City Area Schools; Joel Landeen, City Attorney; and via tele-conference: Greg Strommen, City Councilman and Kent Bush, Rapid City Journal.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda with revision to move Rapid City Area Schools to General Public Comment was made by Doyle, and second by Johnson, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

1) TM110921-01 October 26, 2021 – Motion to approve minutes as presented made by Brown, second by Johnson, motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

7) Rapid City Area Schools representative Jared Vasquez, Stevens AD, reported back on the events held at the Summit Arena to include All-State Chorus and Orchestra and the State Volleyball Tournament. He stated it was a great experience for All-State Chorus and Orchestra. The sound was amazing. Jordan Bauer, Central AD, stated Rapid City did a great job hosting. This past weekend we had the first major sporting event with three classes of volleyball for the State Volleyball Tournament. The staff was great. The layout, design, and access points were very convenient, manageable, and efficient. The number of locker rooms was great. The officials really appreciated having their rooms on the same level as the event. There was a question regarding a more permanent traditional American flag hanging in the venue. The bus drivers were happy to park in the back and appreciated the access in and out. Bauer stated Baltzer, Kraemer, and the crew were amazing to work with. It was so well run. Bauer read a few emails. An official wrote he did not hear one complaint. The Monument staff worked very hard. A coach wrote a thank you to The Monument staff for great hospitality. The coach had never been to a better run state tournament and had coached at 20 of them. Bauer stated we had a brand new floor, and after practice, the kids got used to it. Priscilla Dominguez and her crew put together a hype video that we played before the event that focused on The Monument and then the tournament. Amy McClure and her crew in sound and lights provided an awesome experience. Thanks to everybody. Bauer got a lot of positive comments on the food and the pop machines. People couldn't believe how cheap the food was. Vasquez stated the little store (Market) was a hit. It was awesome to have ADA sections very accessible.

Baltzer stated Rapid City Area Schools ran a great tournament. There was one problem with cell phone coverage in the early part of the tournament; however, Heitsch addressed that. By the last day there was cell phone coverage.

Bauer received positive feedback from Casey Miley, the head AD at Sioux Falls. He was very pleased to have a tunnel to go to the practice facility at Barnett. Vasquez stated it was great to have a high ceiling in the practice space. The Barnett Fieldhouse was also used for awards on Saturday. That allowed teams time to celebrate, and the fans were able to access teams to take pictures. That space was big enough to accommodate the three classes of teams. Bauer stated they received a lot of emails thanking them.

Bauer stated the Rapid City Invite wrestling tournament will be December 10 and 11 in the Summit Arena. They are planning for 12 mats with 44 teams invited from 5 or 6 different states. Last year a

girls division of wrestling was added. RCAS also added a JV tournament. They have been able to expand now that we have a new facility and locker rooms to accommodate the teams. This should be a high quality tournament at the beginning of the season. It is an early test event for the season. Bauer stated logistics will be worked out. The Summit is a lot bigger, and there is space in the back where there will be enough room to get warmup areas in. Kraemer stated the new arena takes the staffing burden off school but puts more staffing burden on The Monument staff.

Bauer commented on Entrance D and had been wondering how often it would get used. Kraemer stated people parked at Central and walked across the street for D entrance. People figured it out, and it has been busy up there. Bauer did not hear one complaint on parking.

Granum stated it is great for Visit Rapid City to hear from people who have run a tournament. Vasquez stated early on we spent too much time overthinking it. The flexibility in how you can arrange the seating is amazing. There are tons of updates and modernizations. There is not a bad seat in the house. Vasquez also attended For King and Country, and he really liked the center hung.

FINANCIAL ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

- 2) TM112321-02 Bill List – Heitsch highlighted items greater than \$5,000. Motion **to approve bill list as presented made by Doyle, second by Brown, motion carried.**
- 3) TM112321-03 Capital Update — Heitsch stated there is no action needed on the capital list this morning. Just yesterday we received the final truckload of the water barrier. They are being stored at the Adams Street facility. We are continuing to work on highlighted items. We are still waiting on fire panel parts. We have not done much in the chamber space because we have been so busy with other events. We are continuing to price things and hoping things come down a little bit.
- 4) TM112321-04 Resolution to Increase Change Funds – Heitsch stated this is something that we knew was going to come. We were hoping people would be more interested in touchless or credit card transaction at food & beverage sale locations, once the Summit opened. The State Volleyball Tournament was 90% cash. Zac Brown was about 50%. For months we have been talking with Pauline Sumption in City Finance regarding the potential for additional change funds. With the Summit Arena, we have a lot more points of sale. During concerts and big events we set up portable locations. The amount of funds to set up banks requires more change funds on hand. So, we need to increase change funds on hand to accommodate all the additional points of sale. The process is to have a resolution from city council. Funds would come from the city to increase those banks. Baltzer stated our future will be cashless, and it is probably not that far off, but until then, this is needed. Before COVID many of the larger venues had been cashless. In South Dakota we are not ready for that yet. Baltzer thinks it is in our future in the next 5 to 8 years. Motion **to approve resolution to increase change funds was made by Doyle, second by Brown, motion carried.**

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION CONTINUED

- 5) Visit Rapid City – Granum stated it has been a busy year. Occupancy numbers through October have been up over 31%. The fall has been pretty good. They are gearing up for LNI with a reception at Prairie Edge tonight from 5 p.m. to 6:30pm. The LNI Board members and VRC will be there. It is a great way to connect and show support. On December 14, there will be an LNI red carpet welcome at 3:45 p.m. Teams will be coming in from Black Hills Harley Davidson on buses. Hopefully, at 4 p.m. the teams will come and walk the red carpet at the Barnett entrance. There are a few things in place to allow for social distancing. After walking the red carpet, teams will have a pasta feed that we put on for the students as well. The mayor will speak as well. It comes at a great time of the year. VRC is getting ready for 2022 and will do a bigger push for the off season and try to lift some of those numbers. The state has similar campaigns and a stronger call to action to get people to travel.
- 6) RC Council – Strommen stated there is nothing specific to report. The state high school activity events at The Monument were great. It is crucial that we continue to put our best foot forward. We knocked it out of the park and must remain competitive. We are off to a great start.

DISCUSSION FROM THE PRESIDENT, BOARD MEMBERS, AND STAFF

- 8) **Event Update** – Kraemer stated last week we had state volleyball Wednesday through Saturday, three Rush games, Mannheim Steamroller on Saturday, Zac Brown on Sunday, and a 750-person banquet on Monday. The crew is tired but rocked everything. We are looking forward to Thanksgiving weekend. We are super proud of our staff. We have a well-deserved slower week during Thanksgiving. Nutcracker in the theatre this weekend. We have a couple of meetings in this room this afternoon. Next week we have a few small meetings, Clint Black in the theatre on Friday night, a middle school wrestling tournament in the ice area on Saturday, a basketball tournament, a gun show, and Christmas parties. Scull is having their Christmas party in the Summit with dinner in Altitude and horse races on the floor.

- 9) **Executive Director's Update** – Baltzer stated we had a lot going on with lots of Rush games, Winter Marketplace, Real Life Women's Conference, Range Beef Cow Symposium, Love Inc., State Volleyball Tournament, and Zac Brown. Our staff has been working hard, and we are proud of them. Many are working on just a few hours of sleep at night. Everybody pitched in. It is partly because of a new building we are learning. The schedule was jammed up. We still have labor issues. We got over a little hump, and some of the programs are really helping. The work release and inmate programs have been really great. Saturday night, after the volleyball tournament got over, and we were able to move their photo sessions and celebration into Barnett. We had 7 hours to convert from a full sporting event to concert and clean the whole building. The inmate group really did amazing. They saved us. We would not have made it without the programs. We are still short staffed and overworking the people we do have. We need to put some more attention on that. It is a problem all over. We are trying to figure out how to work smarter and not harder. That is probably one of our biggest issues.

The report from the athletic directors was really nice. We tried to make the perfect multipurpose building. It feels like we have a really good building going and operating the way it was intended. It feels nice when we have a crowd. We have been getting multiple compliments. Most of those schools were east river and complimenting us. They commented that the food was cheap. We are going to evaluate and look at that. We have some really premium offerings and not just typical stuff. I think that is part of that comment. We have gotten comments from almost every event we have had. The Zac Brown Band stated with going into a new building they didn't think people would have their stuff together. That did not happen here. It was an easy load in. They thought it was one of the best sounding venues in the country. We left all the sound treatment in there. They said it was the best catering that they have had in the country. This was unsolicited.

Our exterior building signage is a little delayed because of some material hold ups that we are dealing with. Inside the building there is one spot in the main concourse in the southwest corner with visqueen. That is because of the penetration of the signs. The connector should be finished as planned. We are just running into blasting through walls and finding all kinds of things. That will be under construction for a little while yet.

- 10) **Financial summary** – Heitsch stated City Finance had to change end of month procedures, so they were not able to get the treasury report to us. October financials will be presented at the next meeting in early December. We are not anticipating any major surprises. **Motion to continue the review of October financials to the December 14 meeting was made by Doyle, second by Brown, motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Estes adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Dringman
Accounting Clerk
The Monument