



ONEIDA COUNTY SPORTS AUTHORITY



800 Park Avenue ♦ Utica, New York 13501
(315) 798-5700

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPORTS FACILITY AUTHORITY HELD ON December 8, 2023, AT 12:30PM

Members Present: Gregory Gaeta, Joseph Johnson, Dave Guido, Frank DuRoss, Tom Keeler, JoAnne Gerace (left 12:41 p.m.)

Also Present: Andrew Dean, Attorney

Absent: Brian Noonan

Authority Business:

Greg calls the meeting to order at 12:31 PM.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting by Joseph Johnson, seconded by Thomas Keeler. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.

Governance Committee report provided by A. Dean
Recommendations for the following:

- Re-adopt bylaws
- Re-adopt code of ethics
- Re-adopt mission statement
- Appoint Andrew Dean as ethics officer

A motion was made to re-adopt the Bylaws without revision by Frank DuRoss. Seconded by Joseph Johnson. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.

A motion was made to re-adopt the Code of Ethics without revision by Thomas Keeler. Seconded by David Guido. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.

A motion was made to appoint Andrew Dean as ethics officer by Gregory Gaeta. Seconded by Joseph Johnson. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.

A motion was made by Thomas Keeler to amend mission statement from “the Oneida County Sports Authority will provide a first class baseball facility and host high school, college, American Legion and professional baseball games” to “the Oneida County Sports Facility Authority will provide a first class baseball facility **servicing the community** and host high school, college, American Legion and professional baseball games **and community events.**” Seconded by Frank DuRoss. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.

JoAnne Gerace departed at 12:41 p.m.

Audit Committee report provided by G. Gaeta

The Audit Committee recommends the continued use of Patrick Tykinski to complete the 2023 financial audit, provided there is no large price increase. The Audit committee also discussed the possibility of adding a credit or debit card and ultimately this should be discussed by the entire board at the next board meeting.

A motion was made to approve auditor Patrick Tykinski for 2023 by Joseph Johnson. Seconded by David Guido. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.

A motion was made to re-elect the Board Standing Committees for one year terms with no changes by Frank DuRoss. Seconded by Gregory Gaeta. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion adopted. The Board Standing Committees for 2024 are:

Audit Committee
Chairperson: JoAnne Gerace
Member: Thomas Keeler
Member: Gregory Gaeta

Governance Committee
Chairperson: Brian Noonan
Member: David Guido
Member: Joseph Johnson

A motion was made by Frank DuRoss to recommend the reappointment of Board Members Thomas Keeler (by the County Executive) and David Guido (by the Board of Legislators). Seconded by Joseph Johnson. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.

Follow up on previous business

- Concession roof was not completed because the cost ended up being more than what was approved. DPW will revisit.
- The viability of a new press box on the top of the grandstand is still being reviewed by independent engineer.
- The information on the Authority website has been completely updated with the exception information from the PARIS filing, which will be updated after the 2023 filing.
- The batting shell frame was listed on the auctions international site and only received a bid of \$30 which was rejected. Discussion to donate the frame to Utica School District.
- Gutter project was approved pending clarification on bids. All 3 bidders complied with the request to resubmit. The old clubhouse has been prepped to install the new gutters, which will be done in the spring.

A motion was made to dispose of the batting shell frame to the Utica City School District by Joseph Johnson. Seconded by Thomas Keeler. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.

A motion was made to approve an award to Gutter King in the amount of \$4,610 to install new gutters on the old clubhouse by David Guido. Seconded by Thomas Keeler. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.

Operations update

- Field is closed for the winter
- MVCC trades class replaced the wooden dugout steps for both dugouts
- Installed 3 more security cameras (bringing the total to 5)
- Water Authority

- For the first time we have shut down the water meters with the Authority so we won't be charged the minimums over the winter. The meters have always been turned off but the billing has not. This should save approximately \$1,500 per off season.
- The Authority is still being charged for the Burrstone Road meter which has not been used since 2018. This is costing the Authority \$132 per month. This is an issue for DPW and not the Authority. We have requested that DPW take over paying this bill. Alternatively, the Authority can ask for more money to compensate continuing to pay \$1,500 annually.

New business

Staffing

- College Corp program is working great. The two college kids that worked last summer are attending MVCC and want to return and have been approved to begin working 4/1. We have a third that has expressed interest in working when he returns home from college in mid May.
- Richard Meiss intends to return for 2024 and has indicated that this may be his last year.
- Robert Cunningham has indicated that he would like to help out on occasion but in a much lesser role. This will create a need to find a solution to have the park and restrooms cleaned.
- Roland Decarlo has retired from Oneida County. Roland was in integral part of the Authority, handling the bookkeeping and record keeping duties. Those duties will be handled in combination by Tom Keeler and Greg Gaeta. Tom will handle the check writing and bookkeeping while Greg will handle the PARIS filing. In order to more efficiently store and share information Greg will create a cloud drive that all board members can access. Rolands records will be stored at the office at the field.

A motion was made by Joseph Johnson to issue a proclamation commending Roland Decarlo for his years of service to the Sports Facility Authority. Seconded by Frank DuRoss. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion adopted. Joseph Johnson will look into obtaining parchment to memorialize the proclamation.

Discussion regarding the need for a gate to enclose the facility with fencing. A. Dean explained that enclosing the facility with fencing will protect the Authority against trespasser liability.

A motion was made by Joseph Johnson to award the fencing project—to replace third base line and add a new gate behind the outfield to enclose the facility—to Gateway Fence Co. in the amount of \$13,000.00. Motion seconded by Thomas Keeler. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.

The Blue Sox lease is entering its final year (2024). The Blue Sox have requested an extension. Discussion involving the wording of the lease and that it is the original and may need to be updated. Nothing was determined to be important enough to not offer the extension.

A motion was made by Gregory Gaeta to authorize a two-year renewal of Blue Sox lease to 2025 (\$14,000) and 2026 (\$15,000), provided, however, that should the Blue Sox wish to renegotiate any other terms of the lease, the Chairman will approach the Board to seek additional approvals and authority regarding such terms. Seconded by Joseph Johnson. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.

Discussion item: the drainage project in the fall was shut down due to engineering requirements that would have taken too long to get completed before the weather prevented the project from being completed. Other alternatives are being reviewed at this time.

The payment to the public works fund will be made once it can be determined where the payment is supposed to be sent. Attempts to contact NYS regarding this have not been successful.

G. Gaeta has been working with lighting and electrical contractors to develop an estimate to have the field lights replaced. A summary of this lighting upgrade project and the benefits were submitted to the Onieda County Executive at the beginning of December. It is currently being reviewed.

Now that the new hospital has opened, Greg brought up the question of the Faxton parking agreement. The MVHS plan is to keep the Faxton facility as is.

Greg inquired about some sort of memorial or veterans field designation since both Murnane and Donovan were veterans. This will require more research.

The Authority will have regularly scheduled quarterly meetings on the second Friday of each quarter (March, June, September, December) at 12PM at Thincubator.

A motion was made by Joseph Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Seconded by Frank DuRoss. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion adopted.