



Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee Northfield Ice Arena  
Wednesday, October 12, 2016  
8:00 a.m.  
St. Olaf Conference Room

### Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Mayor Graham, Ben Martig, Dave Bennett, Brett Reese, Todd Bornhauser, Chris Sorenson, Jeff Hasse, Tom Graupmann, Ryan Bowles

Members Absent: Chris Heineman, Jan Hanson, Carey Tinkelenberg

Others present: Jim Fischer – Ice Now, Barb Neitzel, Recording Secretary

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- I. Welcome and Introductions.
  - B. Resse welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made to Jim Fischer – Ice Now
  
- II. Any questions / follow up / updates to our meeting last week.
  - B. Martig reported the City Council authorized the Mighty Ducks grant application for an electric Zamboni.
  - D. Bennett stated ATS&R will have a preliminary draft of the arena facility study by October 21, 2016.
  - D. Bennett noted the compressor/dehumidification debt will end in 2023. He is working with the Finance Department to clarify the decrease in 2014 revenues.
  
- III. Jim Fischer – Ice Now Proposal and Process  
Background of Ice Now
  - 501C formed in 2004.

- Group looked at significant upgrades needed at the arena. Since then the dehumidification and compressor systems have been replaced.
- Group looked at every possible piece of land to build on.
- Mission was to construct two sheets of ice since it was more cost effective.
- Multiple presentations were made to the City Council, Rotary, St. Olaf, Carleton, High School and YMCA. However, the City was not in a position to help at that time.
- Main issue was finding groups to partner with.
- Plans from 1991, 1998 and various others were mentioned.

#### Changes since last proposal

- St. Olaf's capital campaign for one sheet of ice and possibly two.
- Construction of YMCA which eliminated multi-use.
- Dundas outdoor rink being used more often.
- Construction of Dundas Dome.

Various committee members noted they have received many comments from out of town people stating they love the town of Northfield but spoke very unfavorably of the arena. A new arena would make Northfield a desirable place for tournaments and benefit the restaurant, retail and lodging businesses.

A discussion ensued regarding the need for one or two sheets of ice and whether the existing arena could be updated or if they should pursue a new location. The fact that ice arenas are not money makers was pointed out. A strong need for smart and creative programming is essential.

Some felt that St. Olaf should be taken off the table while others would like to keep it as an option. R. Bowles, St. Olaf, reiterated that their prime focus is one sheet of ice and that no decision has been made at this time to move forward with two sheets.

Preliminary costs were discussed and it was determined they should get some numbers on the table and start broad and narrow down from there. All agreed that the first step would be to receive the results of the ATS&R study before moving forward with anything else.

Jim Fischer was asked to join the committee since he has the knowledge and resources of previous arena proposals.

IV. Schedule Next Meeting, Agenda Items, and Tasks to Assign.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

- ATS&R Study will be presented.

V. Adjourn – 9:00 AM