

Minutes of January 11, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Location: BOPARC Marilla Center, Morgantown, WV

**Call to Order:** President Trumble called the meeting to order at 3:06PM.

**Establish Quorum:** Members present included Cal Shamberger, Danielle Trumble, Amel Morris, Susan Klingensmith, Jenny Selin, and Jenny Thoma.

**Approval of Minutes:** Susan Klingensmith moved to approve the minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and December 28<sup>th</sup> special meeting, and Jenny Selin seconded the motion. The motion was approved by consensus.

**Order of the Agenda:** President Trumble changed the order of the agenda to allow Director Wiles to give the Executive Director's report prior to the Public Comment period.

**Executive Director's Report:** Director Wiles discussed updates regarding the ice arena project timeline and read a summary of the statement regarding the ice arena. In summary, the City and BOPARC heard public comment regarding the arena closure. The Mills Group pulled additional resources to investigate what they are facing. The bonding agency and legal team were also consulted, and as a result, they believe that there is a way forward with a shortened 2023-2024 ice season and to complete the project as anticipated, which changes the ice arena closure scenario. A 2 part mobilization approach of installing the chiller system can be implemented, and Mills Group thinks a permanent chiller system would be in place by October 2023. This would allow a modified season October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to March 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. The end of the current season would be February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. After all discussion, it is recommended from Mills Group that we follow this approach and amend the initial service timeline and allow Mills Group to proceed. The full statement is on the BOPARC Ice Arena web page. Jenny Selin stated that she appreciates all the work that went into this decision from Mills Group, Director Wiles and entire team, City of Morgantown, and Bond Council. She had a lot of contact and will be hearing from the ice community and appreciates everyone having the conversation.

Regarding general updates, Director Wiles spoke about the Dorsey's Knob renovations, as well as updating the board on the finished mulch touches at the Wiles Hill 2, King St, and Suncrest Mini playgrounds. She also reported that the Wiles Hill Café is set to open in February, and Studio 287 is doing great programming. Work continues in Marilla Park, both in the upper and lower sections for the pool and other projects. Director Wiles also said the final budget meeting is January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.

**Correspondence:** Director Wiles reported that 17 emails regarding the ice arena were received between her, Assistant Director Travinski, and the info@boparc.org email accounts.

**Public Comment:**

Frank Oliverio, President of Morgantown Hockey Association, thanked the board for remarks and appreciates the hard work in letting the hockey organization have home ice in Morgantown. Mr. Oliverio said he was glad the hockey association will not have to go searching for ice. He thanked the board for the speed in finding the solution, as the association is operating under a time crunch to get team rosters to USA Hockey by April. Mr. Oliverio thanked Danielle Trumble for the open communication and conversations and asked for clarification regarding the dates of operation for the rink.

Matthew Nelson thanked the board, noted it had been a productive week and a good example of what happens when the community comes together. He thinks this is a fantastic solution and it will save Morgantown Hockey and other user groups. As the process continues, he noted lots of individuals in the room who understand ice rinks throughout the country and would be a valuable resource for what the designs look like. Mr. Nelson said he wants to work with the City and BOPARC on designs.

John Karolcik, a USA Hockey board member, thanked the group for working with the community to find a resolution as he knew there could be a reasonable solution. Mr. Karolcik offered his help as a national board member moving forward.

James Giuliani noted that everyone in the room has a smile, and everyone is happy to achieve the ice arena timeline goal.

Jessie Wilkerson from the Greenmont Neighborhood Association wants to see a public park in Greenmont. She stated the neighborhood is primarily small lots with not a lot of backyards. She would like to improve the quality of life to Morgantown's oldest neighborhoods and wants to work with the city and BOPARC on the process to get a park established. Ms. Wilkerson invited BOPARC to a Greenmont Neighborhood Association meeting, which are held the last Monday of every month.

Stephane Callignon commented that one of the things that created lead times was the chiller, and he hears that will be the first thing done. Mr. Callignon wants to make sure the people installing the chiller will be responsible and will be financially liable for the installation timeline.

Joe Adams, a hockey parent, asked if there is a clock on the bond money and if it needs to be spent by a certain date. Director Wiles answered that there is, but the BOPARC's bond council was not present to confirm that timeline. Mr. Adams thanked the board and came to the meeting asking why the rink couldn't be staged and done in phases.

Nick Rymer expressed a thank you for those who attended the games the prior weekend and for coming up with a plan. Mr. Rymer asked if with the new rink's structure, will it be open during the summertime? Director Wiles answered that there is the capability for year-round ice, but programmatically that is not in the plan.

Shoji Satake thanked the board for listening to the community. He wanted to know that the dates are permanent and would like to see the question called regarding the changes as the amendment to be voted on as this is what the project is going to happen as. Mr. Satake talked about how the arches in the ice arena building are one of the biggest hinderances as you cannot see down the ice as a parent or participant.

Kelly Burd-Huss thanked the board for what has been done to move forward. She spoke regarding the support of what hockey specifically can do in terms of changing the face of youth sports. When she was a kid, she did not have an avenue for youth team sports, but her children have the opportunity with MHA to learn and play hockey while learning how to work as a team towards a goal. Ms. Burd-Huss said MHA is built different, such as player development and including people on travel teams is different. This approach allows a long-term process of developing people to adults who play recreational team sports. Ms. Burd-Huss would like open communication and transparency with MHA about ice time, and lead time regarding the ice arena if they need to pivot and make other accommodations. Ms. Burd-Huss wants to see more collaboration, not just in hockey, to create a beautiful result for the community.

Kris Cecere, a senior criminology student at WVU and member of the WVU hockey team, spoke about coming from the Boston area, where there is a rink every 5 miles from his house. He came to WVU with a purpose and passion to play hockey and noted the entire state of West Virginia has 3 rinks. He said it means a lot to play here, as you can make a name for yourself, and that it means a lot to be a Mountaineer because if you're one of the best players here, you're one of the best in the state. He coaches about 150 kids, ranging from 8U to 14U leagues, and is on the ice about 14 hours a week. He did it as an internship and liked it so much he applied for graduate school at WVU. Mr. Cecere was glad the board came to a compromise to do something.

**Financial Report:** Director Wiles reviewed the current financial data through the end of December. She noted that the second pay of December is not on the report due to a switch in service providers. Jenny Selin moved to accept the financial report, and Susan Klingensmith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:** No items.

**New Business: Ice Arena Construction Project Timeline.** Susan Klingensmith moved to permit Mills Group to amend the bid documents reflecting the proposed changes to the new ice arena project timeline. Jenny Selin seconded the motion. Jenny Selin: When we're looking at an October 1<sup>st</sup> start, when does ice production have to start. Director Wiles said September 15ish. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

**Board Comments:**

Amel Morris thanked everyone for showing up, especially thanked Danielle Trumble, Ryan Simonton, and Director Wiles. He said there may have been an impression something was sat on regarding the ice arena, but the BOPARC leadership let the board know right away and user groups were also made aware. He feels that we are at a place where we can move forward. Mr. Morris said that the meeting time can be hard to get to, but board members can be reached out to outside of meetings. Jenny Thoma said that the amount of progress that was achieved between the last meeting and today is amazing and appreciates everything done. Susan Klingensmith said thank you to everyone coming out, communicating, and participating. She also thanked Director Wiles and Ryan Simonton, and stated it was amazing how much has been accomplished and looks forward to seeing project to completion. Cal Shamberger thanked to everyone for coming out to support the community. He attended the girl's hockey game with Danielle Trumble. He expressed his excitement about the new ice facility and how it will be a positive contribution to the community.

Jenny Selin appreciated all the patience from those attending, as it is hard to deliver bad news, but it was forwarded in the interest in being transparent. She said that sometimes we are doing more due diligence than you think we are. Ms. Selin said it is always great to have the invitation to see girls play hockey, as well as to watch the kids learn to play for free on Sunday. It's wonderful to see everyone on the ice and the ability to get out. She appreciated that the discussion happened in this way and that everyone is working together, and that here at this meeting and at city council people spoke in a positive and direct way. Danielle Trumble appreciated the invitation to the girl's hockey games. She also always appreciates everyone who comes to speak at a public meeting, as she was in the public's seat for year before on the board or elected, and understood the frustration of feeling like no one is listening. She was glad to engage and have personal conversations and open communication and is happy to

come to future events and to not hesitate to reach out. President Trumble said we will work together to make this timeline and keep it accountable. She appreciated the BOPARC staff as they immediately jumped in and engaged with Mills Group and other contractors/subcontractors to see what could be done and came to a best case solution. Finally, President Trumble issued a thank you to the board. This was a very difficult situation, and sometimes it is hard to be a volunteer board member, and appreciates everyone on all the Morgantown City boards for dedicating their time to help improve the city.

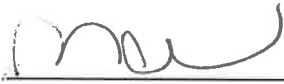
**Adjournment:** Jenny Thoma moved to adjourn the meeting, and Amel Morris seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 3:54PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cal Shamberger

January 30, 2022

Entered Into Record:



Melissa Wiles, Executive Director

November 9, 2022