

Richland Economic Development

Joint Meeting Minutes

On February 23rd, 2023 at 6:30 pm a joint meeting was held between a three-member ad hoc committee for Richland County, a three-member ad hoc committee for the City Richland Center and a three-member ad hoc committee for Richland Economic Development.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Coppernoll at 6:31 PM. A quorum was present. Oliphant affirmed proper public notice.

Members Present: Todd Coppernoll, Melony Walters, and Carson Culver.

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order for the County Board representatives at 6:31 PM. A quorum was present. Affirmation of proper public notice was provided.

County Board Representation: Chair Marty Brewer and Supervisor Ken Rynes. Melissa Luck was excused.

Chair Breininger called the meeting to order for the RED Board representatives at 6:32 PM. A quorum was present. Affirmation of proper public notice was provided.

RED Board Representation: Chair Mike Breininger, Kari Honer, and Al Lins.

Others Present: Administrator Langreck, Administrator Oliphant, and Director Glasbrenner

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

1. Cooperative Agreements between the City of Richland Center and Richland County related to Symons Recreational Complex, Economic Development, and Campus Drive.

Campus Loop — No action taken.

Discussion items and points:

- A. The bridges are at 10-ton and 40-ton capacity.
- B. In discussion with Commissioner Elder, the two bridges have an estimated service life of possibly 5 to 10 years, before they reach critical rating.
- C. Determined insufficient time remains available to complete necessary actions to apply for grant funding by the March deadline. No further action to be taken.
- D. By consensus, the project will currently be postponed until the county decides on actions with properties falling under the UW Agreement.

Economic Development — No action taken.

Discussion items and points:

- A. RED Board representation advocated for the City and County to maintain the existing agreement and functions of the RED board.
- B. County representation advocated for maintaining the agreement with the County having a continued presence on the RED Board. Beginning in 2024, County financial contributions will be reduced by half of the current level.
- C. City representation maintained their intent to withdraw from the agreement allowing for the fortification of the Economic Development Department. They expressed their desire to continue collaborative efforts. Continued County contributions to maintain or increase capabilities were encouraged. At the next Common Council meeting, City representatives will offer a report and seek direction.
- D. City Representatives indicated they were not bound to issue a final withdrawal notice and may delay such action if deemed warranted. Both County and RED Board representatives encouraged the City to delay action pending the determination of state shared revenue changes.
- E. Discussion was had on transitioning the RED Board from an oversight to advisory board. The formation of a “think tank” comprised of volunteer subject matter experts based on the specific project at hand was also discussed.
- F. Consensus was reached that Economic Development would be best served if provided with more support. Discussion was had on how additional staff could be structured and utilized.
- G. There were no objections to the City assuming the role of the employer for the position of Economic Development Director. It was determined a plan for this transition should be executed swiftly. Consensus was not reached for any other potential amendments to the Structural Document.

Symons Natatorium Complex – No action taken.

Discussion items and points:

- A. City representation expressed concerns on financial oversight, capital planning and budget planning.
- B. Discussion was had on approaching the Symon’s Foundation, other area foundations and business partners with the possibility of funding operational support.
- C. Representation from the RED Board offered their services in helping to explore changes in the business model.
- D. Representation agreed that the Natatorium is important to the community and should be preserved, but the City and County would like to see other funding sources identified.
- E. Consensus was reached that a new agreement should be drafted to replace the existing 1987 agreement.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT

The joint meeting of the Cooperative Relations Team adjourned at 8:43 PM.

CITY: Motion to adjourn made by Culver. Seconded by Walters. Motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY: Motion to adjourn by Rynes, seconded by Brewer. Motion carried 3-0.

RED BOARD: Motion to adjourn by Lins, seconded by Honer. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes reviewed and submitted by Economic Development Director – Jasen Glasbrenner.

Minutes based on notes compiled by City Administrator Ashley Oliphant and County Administrator Clint Langreck.