

Symons Recreation Complex Board Minutes February 9, 2026

The Symons Recreation Complex Board met on February 9, 2026 at 5:30 pm. The following people were in attendance: Dave Turk, John Cler, Grant Worthington, Melody Walters, Todd Coppernoll, Al Lins, Mary Miller (online) and Rachel Schultz (arrived at 5:58). Staff members Mike Hardy and Kyle Ewing were also present. 1 member of the public attended online.

1. Call to Order - Cler called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.
2. Roll Call of Membership
3. Open Meetings Compliance - Verification was met, per Hardy.
4. Approve Agenda – Turk made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Walters seconded. Motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2026 – Lins made a motion to approve the minutes. Worthington seconded. Motion carried.
6. Public Comment – none

Administrative Reports:

7. Staff Report – Hardy gave an update on discussions with the Wisconsin DNR and the National Park Service on the grant requirements form 1981 that restricts what can and can't be done with the tennis courts on campus property. County Administrator Clements has been in these meetings as well as we look at options for possible moving and renovations of the courts. It appears that moving them will be a challenge due to the expense and assurance that the same value of recreational land is provided, which also includes the adjacent soccer field and street as well as part of the parking lot in the grant boundary. There are possibilities to retain ownership and lease these areas to school district or potentially transfer everything (including the grant responsibilities) to the school district with DNR/NPS approval. Hardy and Clements will continue to discuss options which will be presented to County Board and SEH as campus redevelopment plans proceed. Hardy also updated on progress of the Marty Brewer Trail signage design and grant and noted that the Brewer family needs to be contacted about what they would like the trailhead sign to read regarding Mr. Brewer and if a photo can be on the signage. Ewing added that the Triathlon has begun at Symons and will take place all month. 36 people have registered this year.
8. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Report – Al Lins updated work on setting up a new endowment fund for future SRC funding support with investment firm meetings, and a large social event planned for November 7th to raise funds for SRC. More info will be coming.
9. Innovation Grant project update– Hardy reviewed the stakeholder and public meetings held in January, with each meeting attracting about 25-30 participants. He noted that one interesting thing was that the stakeholder attendees almost all chose a school district management preference for SRC while the public attendees almost all chose a government (City and/or County) management structure similar to current. No one from the public chose a school district model, however Hardy stated that this could have been due to a lack of education as well as fear of change and comfort with current management that members currently have, whereas stakeholders have a better understanding of the need to be more efficient and sustainable with tax dollars as well as the future projection of City/County tax levy availability. Hardy added that he has requested that IPA include some numbers as to what it might look like in taxes on school district property owners if SRC was moved to a Fund 80/school district model. IPA will be back in town March 3 to present recommendations to City Council and begin to wrap up the project.
10. Building Improvement Update- Hardy is working with a couple of engineers on getting estimates to develop plans and specs for HVAC, pool wall repairs and some interior remodeling (which would allow the addition of Family Changing Rooms) so that the County can solicit bids for work on HVAC and pool wall and Foundation can begin

fundraising to get the Family Rooms started. County Administrator Clements is also talking with SEH and Venture about getting estimates as well so we can present options to County Board.

Action Items:

11. Consider accepting donations – Hardy reported that the following donations were offered to Symons: Symons Recreation Complex Foundation approved offering up to \$12,000 to replace weight room equipment including weights and racks. United Givers of Richland County raised \$2,500 for Marty Brewer Trail improvements. Walters moved to accept both donations, seconded by Lins. Motion carried.

12. Consider future space needs/priorities of Symons Recreation Complex – Hardy presented a staff-preferred floor plan (option E-1) which addresses the 3 biggest needs at SRC – 1)adding family changing rooms; 2)updating/improving current locker rooms; and 3)updating/improving weight room. Hardy noted that the conceptual floorplan ideas were simply draft right now and contracting with an engineer will help move things around and determine prices. Staff asked for further comments, including the future of the racquetball courts. Board members agreed that due to lack of space and declining interest in racquetball, we need to utilize the racquetball space to better suit member needs, especially in making locker room improvements and adding family rooms. Staff will proceed with soliciting architect/engineer proposals to create plans and estimates using floor plan option E-1 which eliminates both racquetball courts and adds family changing rooms along with making locker room updates as needed.

Closing:

13. Committee Correspondence – Coppernoll noted there will be an informal discussion on February 17th with County and City reps along with City utilities to discuss campus property and existing utilities. The underground utility map makes the future planning of campus property more difficult, and needs to be communicated as buildings are removed and new planning done. Turk added that the County is currently pursuing RFPs for the demolition of at least 3 campus buildings deemed unusable, with a possible 4th being the theater building which has had major water and heating issues which have significantly increased costs to save that building.

14. Future Agenda Items – None.

15. Adjourn—Walters made a motion to adjourn at 6:12pm. Coppernoll seconded. Motion carried.