

Arena Task Force Meeting Minutes

Meeting: December 10, 2015 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Location: Ramsey County Parks and Recreation

Attendance: Jon Oyanagi, Sara Ackmann, Matt Just, Steve Reeves, Moose Younghans, Candy Petersen, Michael McGraw, Mike Searles, Donald Mullin

Guests: Bill Ross, Alisha Seifert, Mark McCabe, Kyle Gillespie-Rink Tec

Note Taker: Sharon Chute – Parks and Recreation

Meeting began at: 11:05 a.m.

1) Welcome and review minutes from previous meeting

Guest introductions. Previous minutes approved with no changes needed.

2) Update on task force membership

Commissioner Carter appointed a new member. Shelly wasn't able to make it to the meeting. Jon will meet with her and bring her up to speed.

3) Update on public input methods

All meetings are complete. Small group and large group meeting feedback is being compiled and will be posted and shared with committee in January.

4) Guest Speaker – Kyle Gillespie Rink Tec

Rink Tec retrofitted 6 of 10 of our rinks, thereby saving millions of dollars by changing from direct to indirect compressors. Another company retrofitted 3 of the remaining rinks. All Ramsey County arenas, except Biff Adams, have Vilter compressors, however, OJ and 1 compressor at Highland are the old 300 series and aren't ammonia compatible. Repair parts are readily available for all compressors. Beginning in 2020 R22 refrigerant can no longer be manufactured, however, it can be recycled and re-processed for sale after 2020. It is believed that R22 will be available for years beyond 2020, but the cost is unknown and will probably be high.

Drop-in systems: 407c caused condensers to lose 30% power. CO2 takes less horsepower, is safe, environmentally friendly, meets coding due to low volume of CO2, however there are patents pending that may make indirect flooring use of this product troublesome as it is currently bogged down in the courts. Direct CO2 may be able to be used at Aldrich, but probably not the small arenas. Rink Tec can provide building cubic foot size requirements for a new facility with direct CO2.

407c is currently still being used in the industry but there is speculation that it could become outlawed the same as R22. The Vadnais Sports Center currently uses 507c. A 407 blend is currently being devised and may become marketable soon.

Ammonia is environmentally friendly, but can be toxic to humans. Relief lines need to be dispatched into a water tank before venting outside. The size of the water tank is dependent on amount of ammonia charge being dispatched into tank. System installation is stringently regulated by state inspectors. It is possible to install water tanks outside, underground. Floors in the arenas are ready to go as they are 25 year floors, except for VSC, Harding and Aldrich are 50 year floors. The cost to operate ammonia is lower. 450 series compressors will significantly reduce conversion costs. Rink Tec can provide a realistic budget for ammonia conversion.

Pleasant and Biff have a mat system which can be rolled up. White Bear, West Side, Shoreview, OJ, Highland South, Harding and Phalen currently have concrete on top of concrete. One or two layers of concrete would need to be removed. Rink Tec suggests that we budget for floor replacements at White Bear and West Side in the year 2025 at a cost of \$700,000 per floor. The VSC will need a floor replacement in 2060.

Conversion of a rink would take approximately 14 weeks of work. Equipment mains are PVC which can get brittle and crack and should be replaced around the 20 year age. Above ground PVC is installed in all arenas except for Harding; which could cause a problem and should be planned for accordingly. Estimate to build a new rink is \$8 million with 1,500 seats. Operating costs for 1 sheet vs. 2 sheets provides an operating savings of 25%.

5) Decision Making

A spreadsheet of information was provided to committee to facilitate discussion. After much discussion group came to a consensus on adding another sheet of ice at Highland Arena. Group also agreed that allocation of ice time should be given to groups within Ramsey County, with pay-for-play receiving last consideration. Groups outside of Ramsey County may need to provide support or pay a higher fee to off-set tax support from Ramsey County.

6) Review and approve 2016 calendar

Additional meetings were scheduled

7) Draft Agenda for next meeting

Draft final report review

Next meeting: January 13 2015