

Wicomico Youth & Civic Center Commission  
January 12, 2018  
Minutes

The Wicomico Youth & Civic Center Commission met in regular session on January 12, 2018 in the conference room of the Civic Center. Chairman Urban called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. The following members were present.

Commission Members:

Ed Urban, Chairman

Mike Getzey

Alex Bubas

Mike Delano

Sandy Fitzgerald-Angello

Staff:

Steve Miller

Chuck Rousseau

Upon a motion made by Mr. Delano, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald-Angello, the Minutes of the October 20, 2017 meeting were approved as written and circulated.

Key Indicators were handed out by Mr. Rousseau and discussed. The numbers in November trended well and events did well during the fall. The Civic Center is filled almost every weekend coming up. Education and prom events are increasing. Catering did trend down and it is being monitored, but concessions are trending up. Labor costs increased due to no longer being able to get pre-release inmate help at night. Mr. Bubas asked if staff can set pricing for concessions. Mr. Rousseau replied that staff can make recommendations but County Administration must sign off on price changes. Ms. Fitzgerald-Angello noted that the Civic Center has a good product in regards to food. The fact that the facility is dated is a problem and event space sometimes wins over quality of food.

In regards to the Civic Center building, construction for ongoing phase 1 projects is just about complete. There are some final pieces being put in place, such as, wayfinding signs, the upstairs carpet being laid, and new artwork being added. LED lights are being installed in Da Nang and Flanders and will be pre-wired for dimming. Mr. Rousseau said he is looking for more pre-function space. Right now there is no bridal suite for weddings and no awnings to create a protected outdoor space. It's also a concern about having rooms to show potential clients when so many events are moving in and out and when meeting space is occupied with recreation programs. It's hard to show clients what space they really have to work with. There is a need to update Midway. Mr. Bubas asked if staff are looking at investment factors for a recreation center. Mr. Rousseau said they are looking to see what options are out there. Mr. Miller stated that the Civic Center Commission is very helpful in brainstorming and intends to seek Commission input to help craft the vision for the next phase of updating the Civic Center.

Mr. Rousseau stated that security is a concern during events. There will be metal detectors put in place at the entrances and bag checks will be completed. There will also be an outside security presence around the building during events. There will be updates to the phone system in the building, as well, which will add to overall security.

A hockey league update was given by Mr. Rousseau and Mr. Miller. Hockey season is well underway and there are no credible leads with Jim Calpin to secure a hockey franchise. Mr. Calpin's existing contract with the County expires at the end of March. At that time, it will be determined what next step(s) will be taken with respect to a franchise in the facility.

The next meeting of the Civic Center Commission is Friday, March 9 at 12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice von Paris

Janice von Paris, Recording Secretary