



RTA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 15, 2022, 9:30 AM  
CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ROOM 102

**Welcome and Introductions**

Economic Development Officer Bob Cope welcomed everyone, thanked them for their attendance, and called the meeting to order. Sam Arnold called the roll.

**Call to Order – Roll Call**

Tom Strand – Present  
Jeff Greene – Excused  
Stan VanderWerf – Present  
Pam Shockley-Zalabak – Present  
Carlos Cruz-Gonzales – Present  
Charlie Sweet- Excused  
Nick Ragain – Present  
Susan Edmondson – Present  
Julian Flores – Excused  
Mike Gould – Present  
Lesley Irvine – Present  
Laura Neumann – Present  
Doug Quimby – Present  
Dan Schnepf – Present  
Lynne Telford – Present  
Luke Travins – Present  
Bob Cope – Present  
Maureen Juran – Present  
Bret Waters - Excused

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Recognition of New and Outgoing Board Members**

Bob Cope recognized and thanked the outgoing board members for their service to the RTA Board and welcomed the new members.

**Communications**

None.

## **Project Element Status Reports**

- a) US Olympic and Paralympic Museum – Pam Shockley-Zalabak provided an update for the USOPM. The museum is ending the year operationally in the black. They have achieved this with high employee retention rates and lean staffing. The museum is receiving good reviews on Trip Advisor and other similar websites. The museum has increased its emphasis on events and finished the year hosting 112 events. Roughly 50% of event visitors are from out-of-state. They are targeting 300 events per year and are on track to reach that in 2023. “Super events” with 500 or more visitors are being increased with a target of 1-2 per month. A virtual museum tour will be available in January for a small fee. The museum is restructuring its’ short-term debt to move from variable-rate loans to fixed-rate. Their CEO search will bring candidates in January, with an announcement likely in the spring. The board is altering its’ bylaws to create a more mature board structure.
- b) William J. Hybl Sports Medicine and Performance Center – Bill Lueck from Centura Health and the Chair of the UCCS Health Science Department Dr. Jackie Berning presented updates on UCCS’s Hybl Sports Medicine and Performance Center. UCCS is working on launching a Physical Therapy program to offer students a Clinical Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT). The program plans to start in the Summer of 2024 with a cohort of 40 students. The UCCS DPT Program will address the regional shortage of Physical Therapists along with the educational and clinical needs of El Paso County and its’ surrounding communities, along with the state as a whole.
- c) US Air Force Academy Visitor Center – Dan Schnepf of Blue & Silver Development Partners, LLC and Carlos Crus-Gonzalez presented updates on the USAFA Visitor Center. Construction is underway at TrueNorth Commons. 100% of the site has been graded and utility installation is 30% complete. The design for the Visitors Center is complete with permitting at 70% completion. The hotel began construction in June of 2022 and is 20% complete. A deal has been made with Circle K to provide a gas station at the property and is expected to begin construction in October 2023. The Visitor’s Center has been named in honor of General Bradley and Zita Hosmer, graduates of the Air Force Academy’s first class. The Academy is currently working on plans for the exhibits that will be housed in the Visitor’s Center. Plans are being made to showcase the Academy’s heritage, academics, athletics, and future.
- d) Robson Arena – Colorado College Athletic Director Lesley Irvine and Ed Robson Arena Executive Director Colin Bailey presented updates on Robson Arena. The CC Hockey team is having competitive success in its’ 2<sup>nd</sup> season in the arena. The arena will be hosting the USA Weightlifting National Championships, the International Jump Rope Union World Championships, and the US Open Taekwondo Han Madang this summer. These events will bring 4100 athletes, along with almost 2000 coaches, and spectators from about 30 countries.

- e) Weidner Field- Nick Ragain of Switchbacks FC presented updates on Weidner Field. The Switchbacks club experienced athletic success, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the conference after losing in a semi-final game. The venue set records in ticket sales and sponsorships and the Switchbacks finished top 5 in revenue. The Club currently is struggling with media partnerships and getting merchandise into local sporting goods stores. The venue is hosting events like concerts, soccer championships, soccer clinics, and a community movie night.

**Financing Entity Report**

Jariah Walker from the Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority provided the financing entity report. There is \$66,000 in the C4C account, mostly for Summit Economics to provide economic reports. C4C projects made \$11 million in TIF sales tax revenue by August.

**Applicant Update**

None

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Public Comment / Public Input**

None

**Board Member Comments**

Mike Gould asked if there is a sundown clause on the RTA Advisory Board.

**Adjourned**