

Sports Committee Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2024

Branson Chamber/CVB

1. Call to Order @ 3:30/Introductions

- Introductions around the room
 - Joseph Pokorski with Club Wyndham Branson joined on Microsoft Teams

2. Recent Sporting Event Update

- Stewart announced that Mr. Crappie was in town a few weeks ago, unfortunately the expo was cancelled. Ended up with 78-79 teams. Fish Fry was successful.
- Had a sit-down meeting with MoNASP and will be back for the next three years. Looking for Sponsorships. Will be back in January looking for sponsorships around that time along with volunteers.
- Trails Task Force meeting happened today, talked about possibilities for funding for connecting Springfield area all the way down to Northwest Arkansas. Discussed who might want to do another Trail Summit. The idea is to have a smaller one for 2025, then bring in some big names in 2026.

3. Venue & Facility Committee Member Updates

- Caylen announced they are going into off-season, but just hit over 2000 camping nights for the month of November, so still busy. Working on five new lodging units - yurts. Upgrading campsites and moving into off-season projects.
- Nicole with Convention Center said they are getting ready for next year's 8 Cheer & Dance competitions happening between January and May, along with creating long-term contracts with them as well and bringing in some new ones. Focusing on team contacts made back in August.
- Josh with RecPlex mentioned Top Gun was here recently and used nine fields between two locations, Recplex and Ballparks. Dec. 14, they will be hosting an Archery tournament. Will start off with Jerry's tournaments beginning in January. Excited about Sports Facility Feasibility operation. Hoping new job opening will be made official after Tuesday for a Trails Coordinator position.
- Kristina had an update concerning Ballparks. Ryan is on vacation, so he wasn't here to join us, but he's excited about continued efforts out at Ballparks and the way they have been to team up with Branson Recplex for events around town.
- Presented Feasibility study to TCP. They approved us moving on to stage three, which is regrouping with Feasibility Study company and looking at land and funding. More information to come.

4. Explore Branson Sports Department Updates

- CVB Sports Team has tentatively hired a new Sports Coordinator who will be starting after the first of the year. More details to come. Sports Guide talks about Athlete Program. Wristbands for the Athlete Program take visitors to a site with discount offers for restaurants, live shows, attractions, etc. if you become a part of the Athlete Program. Deadline to register was extended towards end of December. It's an incentive for teams to come to Branson and an incentive for Branson businesses to participate. Does not include Lodging at this time, but Becky with Westgate asked us to consider adding Lodging businesses to the program. Kristina will consider.
 - Nicole added that while she was with the CVB, other destinations, like Louisville, were seeing this Athlete Program and asking what it is and how we are doing it. It really is something that no other destination that we talk to is doing. Ask Kristina or Stewart for questions or concerns.
- Kristina mentioned an MSA from the Chamber that went out on the 18th of this month about donating to kids for Christmas – would love donations. Change box is located at front desk, but there is also a QR code available. Proceeds go to local schools.

5. Committee Member News, Updates, & Questions

- Sports Facility Feasibility Study
 - Expenses
 - Is it happening?
 - Will there be competition?
 - People are excited for this to happen. Nicole mentioned all the businesses she and the CVB Sports Team had to turn away when she worked there because of limited space. She is confident we would fill the expanded space.
 - Can be built anywhere in Taney County
- Kristina said if you ask Josh, 90% of organizations come back, but they are also wanting to expand. They are excited, wondering when it will be built.
- Welcomed Ryan as incoming Chair for 2025 and Co-Chair will be Caylen.
- Excited for the College of the Ozarks hosting NCCAA Basketball and Volleyball tournaments, beginning March 17. Looking for sponsors. Ask Stewart about becoming a volunteer “host coach.” Not really coaching, but may help by, say, taking a team out to dinner.

6. 2025 Sports Committee Meeting Dates (Emails will be sent out)

- a. Wed./Feb. 21st @ 3:30pm
- b. Wed./May 14th @ 3:30pm
- c. Wed./Aug. 13th @ 3:30pm
- d. Wed./Nov. 12th @ 3:30pm

