

Board Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2025 Minutes
5:00 p.m.
Richland 44 High School



Richland #44 Foundation Minutes

Present: Megan Kummer, Katie Hegseth, Scott Johnson, Chad Ulven, Jenny Schmitt, Nicole Holdman, Dr. Britney Gandhi

Others Present: Juli Mauch, Becky Bakke, Tamera Frankl

Agenda Items	Discussion/Motion
FOUNDATION BOARD NEW BUSINESS: Megan Kummer called for any additions to the agenda. Hearing none the agenda was approved.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Approval of the April 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes	NICOLE HOLDMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 7, 2025 MINUTES. CHAD ULVEN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.
THE 44 VENUE BUSINESS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Construction Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Systems Startup: Commissioning by EAPC begins May 5 (mechanical, electrical, specialty systems).Training: To be coordinated across teams; may include video. Scheduled within 1–2 weeks.Documentation: Drawings, manuals, submittals, and warranties to be provided in hard copy and digital formats.Materials: Spare stock identified and will be stored on-site; brick pallet storage pending Foundation input.Punchlist Walkthrough: Set for May 8, 1:00–4:00 PM.Occupancy: Temporary Certificate targeted for May 25, weather permitting.Financials: Retainage request in June; final billing projected for July.Remaining Items: ~\$95K in added features (e.g., ice maker, signs, sidewalk, window treatments).Too late in the season to coordinate with the Richland County Soil Conservation District to pursue trees. Will schedule for next year.Signage is being finalized and within budget. 6-8 weeks out.Worked with the Guitar Company to provide audio equipment for smaller rooms. Significantly lower cost and user friendly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">44 Venue Financing	The loan was extended, and the same borrowing rate will apply.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">May 28th Eide Bailly Meeting	A meeting is scheduled to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Applying for the sales and use tax permitHow financials will be organizedDoes The 44 Venue have a separate account?

Agenda Items	Discussion/Motion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 44 Venue General Manager Update 	<p>Marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing spotlight features and grand opening invitations. • Meeting with marketing firm and radio for advertising opportunities. • Encouraging newsletter sign-ups via the website. <p>Construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates pending from Britney: signage finalization, wedding venue earthwork adjustments, tree planting (in coordination with Richland County Soil Conservation), and smaller room audio setup. <p>Vendor Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 hotel partners: Spring Hill Suites, Holiday Inn, Courtyard by Marriott. • 3 catering partners established. • Developing additional event vendor relationships. <p>Bridal Show</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early planning underway for a Fall 2025 Bridal Show (targeting November). <p>Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting staff job descriptions. • Refining processes and setting up alcohol service logistics and licensing. <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational budget updates are ongoing as further details emerge. <p>Venue Events & Bookings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming Hosted Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Grand Opening</i>: July 24, 3:00–7:00 p.m. ◦ <i>Content Shoot</i>: August 18 ◦ <i>Fall Festival</i>: Sept. 27–28 ◦ <i>Wedding Expo</i>: November (TBD) • Booked: 6 weddings (2026), birthday party (July 3), nonprofit event (<i>Power of 100</i>). • Pending: 1 wedding proposal and 10 active inquiries. <p>Concert Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bellamy Brothers concert is not proceeding. • Working on booking the Johnny Holm Band for Sept. 6. • Seeking 3–5 sponsors; sponsorship levels in progress. • Planning to approach Colfax Meadows as a sponsor. <p>Concert Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue to handle ticket sales, security, insurance, staffing, bar, marketing, and cleanup.

Agenda Items	Discussion/Motion
	<p>Grand Opening Event – July 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:00 p.m.: Ribbon Cutting • 4:00–7:00 p.m.: Live Music (Matt Aakre), venue tours, bar open, appetizers, balloons, florals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 44 Venue Fundraising Updates 	<p>Tamera Frankl provided an update on fundraising efforts. The committee continues to meet bi-weekly and is now re-engaging with donors who were previously undecided. Donor tours are ongoing each Friday. Efforts are underway to secure donations through bench naming rights, with twenty-six benches available for sponsorship.</p> <p>The fundraising group is also assisting with planning a private donor appreciation event at The 44 Venue. They have requested funds to cover event supplies, beverages, and light appetizers.</p> <p>JENNY SCHMITT MOTIONED TO APPROVE \$2,500 FOR EVENT COSTS. SCOTT JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.</p>
Old Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Night Scholarship Wrap-Up 	<p>Seventeen Hendrickson Scholarships were awarded during Senior Night.</p> <p>The committee discussed adding language to future application materials clarifying that late submissions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Community Giving Campaign 	<p>The 2025 Live First Community Giving Campaign put on by First International Bank & Trust has ended. We have not heard to date if we will be receiving anything.</p>

The meeting was adjourned. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is June 4, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Bakke & Juli Mauch