

Richland #44 Foundation Board Meeting

Date: September 2, 2025

Time: 11:30am-12:30pm

Location: Virtual (recorded)

Attendees

- Britney Gandhi
- Megan Kummer
- Janna [General Manager]
- Nicole RostadHoldman
- Katie Hegseth
- Juli Mauch

1. Approval of Minutes

- Skipped; will approve minutes for the last two months at the next meeting.

2. Facility Use Requests & Policy

- **Discussion:**
 - Multiple requests received for use of *The 44 Venue* (prom, spaghetti feed, concerts, all-school reunion, etc.).
 - Tension between community goodwill and revenue generation.
 - Current “fund request form” not fully suitable; board discussed creating a facility-use-specific form.
 - Suggested requirements: volunteer manpower for setup/tear-down, clear documentation, and differentiated guidelines for school-related vs. community events.
 - Weekday use generally less conflicting; weekends (esp. peak wedding season May–Sept) must be handled cautiously.
 - Prom and all-school reunion received special attention. Prom traditionally in May—board discussed potential April or Friday options. All-school reunion: rare (20–25 years), optics matter, board inclined to accommodate.
- **Action Items:**
 - Britney & Janna: Draft revised facility use form with clear clauses (setup/tear-down expectations, weekend restrictions, reduced rate language).
 - Board: Develop a guidance document outlining standard responses to requests.

3. All-School Reunion Request

- Committee (Tamra, Nathan, Kendra, Karen, Pam) requested September 2026 (19th or 26th).
- Conflict: same dates under inquiry for weddings.
- Committee interested in “non-profit rate” (\$1,500 vs. \$8,000 Saturday rate).
- Board favored language of “reduced rate” rather than “non-profit rate.”
- **Consensus:** Likely \$1,500 with setup/tear-down responsibilities.
- **Decision:** Await written request from reunion committee (date + rate ask). Board will finalize via email vote once request is formalized.

4. Parking Lot Preparation

- Need to install posts/signage for upcoming Saturday event.
- Supplies on hand; require equipment/labor for post-hole digging.
- Potential support from Earl Miry (helped with elementary school lot).
- **Action Item:** Britney to contact Earl; board agreed to offer modest payment if needed.

5. Event Advertising & Volunteers

- Upcoming event (\$20 entry, no presale). Posters in gas station/post office; Abercrombie posters pending.
- Decision to include in school daily announcements and potentially newsletters.
- Janna to send reminder email requesting volunteers (particularly adult supervision alongside student volunteers).
- Board encouraged including flyer image (JPEG/PDF) in announcements.

6. Staffing & Bookkeeping

- Meeting scheduled with potential bookkeeper
- Janna actively hiring additional event staff.

7. Upcoming Events & Bookings

- 18 weddings booked; 3 proposals pending (potential total 21).
- Minnkota AG booked Christmas party (2026).
- Roger Maris Gala confirmed for June 16–17, 2026 (weekday use).
- 2 weddings already booked for 2027.
- Discussions with artist Mary Schlossman regarding displaying art at venue.

8. Fundraising & Corporate Outreach

- Sanford Foundation tour: no direct fundraising pitch made; group was primarily events staff.
- Board sees potential in future Sanford connections.
- Corporate holiday parties for 2025 not yet booked; Janna networking through Chamber.

9. Next Steps

- Britney & Janna: Draft facility-use form and board guidance document.
- Reunion Committee: Submit formal written request for September 2026.
- Britney: Contact Earl re: parking posts installation.
- Janna:
 - Email for volunteers (adults + students).
 - Provide event flyer image to Britney for announcements.
- Board: Email vote on reunion request once submitted