



Sports & Events Authority Advisory Committee
612 N. Main, City Hall - Council Chambers
May 12, 2026

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by: Kevin McCardle at 2:00 PM

SEA Advisory Committee members present: Mayor Hanson, Kevin McCardle, Kevin Nelson, LaRee Rumbolz, Emily Liedtke, Dave Helleloid, Tim Smith, Jim Johnston, Scott Morgan

SEA Advisory Committee members absent: Jill Larson, Cory Aadland, Jason Christensen, Dave Sietsema

Others present: Aaron Hieb, Stephanie Ellwein

2. Presentation of Funding Applications

SEA Grant Application presentations by applicants.

The SEA Advisory Committee reviewed applications for grant funding.

The following applications were presented and considered:

A. Battle at the Corn Palace 2 presented by 15th Round Boxing

Mayor Hanson spoke on behalf of and presented the Battle at the Corn Palace 2 presented by 15th Round Boxing Grant Application, which is requesting \$1,500.

- Mayor Hanson shared that the event will take place this Saturday, May 16, 2026, at The World's Only Corn Palace. There are 17 bouts scheduled, starting at 5 PM. Currently, there are approximately 100 tickets sold, and he shared that the majority of the ticket sales last year took place the day before and day of the event. Last year, there were 462 tickets sold. The grant request of \$1,500 will go towards hotel fees for the boxers, workers, and staff. The only source of income for the event is ticket sales and any profits from the event help fund future events and the boxers' fees for national events.

B. South Dakota Golf Association (SDGA) Mid-Am Championship

Eric Hieb spoke on behalf of and presented the South Dakota Golf Association (SDGA) Mid-Am Championship Grant Application, which is requesting \$800.

- Eric shared that the tournament will be Saturday and Sunday, June 6–7, with a practice round that the majority of golfers participate in on Friday, June 5, 2026, at Lakeview Municipal Golf Course. Currently, there are 67 golfers registered and the deadline to sign up is May 27. He estimates that approximately 75% of the golfers will stay overnight on Friday and Saturday. The grant request of \$800 will go towards hospitality for the golfers and lunches for the volunteers. Any profits from the event will go towards the daily operations of the golf course.

C. Mitchell Area Community (MAC) Triathlon

Emily Hohn and Terasa Gillen spoke on behalf of and presented the Mitchell Area Community (MAC) Triathlon Grant Application, which is requesting \$2,500.

- Emily and Terasa shared that the 10th Annual event will take place on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at Hitchcock Park. They expect 65–80 participants, with many of those registered this year being local. Those that stay overnight do not stay in hotels, rather campgrounds, so they do recommend the Lake Mitchell Campground, which does voluntarily submit the \$2 per campsite per night BID #4 collection. They are currently in the process of a three-year contract to purchase their own timing system. The grant request of \$2,500 will go towards the purchase of the timing system along with permit fees for their event. Any profits from the event go back into the community along with supporting their MAC Area Event.

Kiwanis Youth Baseball Tourney

Linda McEntee spoke on behalf of and presented the Kiwanis Youth Baseball Tourney Grant Application, which is requesting \$1,000.

- Linda shared that the tournament will be a one-day tournament on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at Cadwell Sports Complex. The Kiwanis Club of Mitchell is partnering with Palace City Baseball Association. Currently, there are 21 teams registered, and there will also be a Pitch, Hit, and Run competition available for all players as well. The grant request of \$1,000 will go towards umpire fees and awards. Any profits from the tournament will be split between the Kiwanis Club of Mitchell and Palace City Baseball Association.

D. Lowell Rang Memorial Girls Fastpitch Softball Tournament

Jim Misiaszek spoke on behalf of and presented the Lowell Rang Memorial Girls Fastpitch Softball Tournament Grant Application, which is requesting \$3,000.

- Jim shared that the 20th Annual tournament will be Friday, June 12 through Sunday, June 14, 2026, at Cadwell Sports Complex. Currently, there are 50 teams registered,

and he shared that each year they compete with Sioux Falls tournaments, as well as, every fourth year, the SDHSAA State Softball Tournament will overlap the event. The grant request of \$3,000 will go towards umpire fees and hospitality, along with field usage fees. Any profits from the tournament will be put back into the maintenance and upgrades of their equipment.

E. Cornbelt Team Camps

Josh Davies, via conference phone, spoke on behalf of and presented the Cornbelt Team Camps Grant Application, which is requesting \$1,250.

- Josh shared that the camps will be held (Girls Varsity) June 10-11, (Boys Varsity) June 17-18, and (Girls/Boys JV) June 24-25, 2026. Currently, there are around 80 teams registered. Josh surveyed each team and these camps will account for 60 total room nights. He has not guaranteed the school(s) or coaches any sort of rebate funding yet, but he would like to be able to receive some funding, so he can provide those schools that stay overnight with some funding to cover hotel room costs. The grant request of \$1,250 will go back to those schools that stayed overnight to help cover hotel room costs. Any profits from the camps will help to fund future camps.

F. Arts in the Park

Mayor Hanson spoke on behalf of and presented the Arts in the Park Grant Application, which is requesting \$2,500.

- Mayor Hanson shared that this is the third year of the revival of Arts in the Park and will take place on Saturday, July 25 through Sunday, July 26, 2026, at Hitchcock Park. Currently, there are approximately 140 vendors attending the event. They estimate that approximately 50–60% of vendors stay overnight in hotels. The grant request of \$2,500 will go towards offsetting expenses such as security, park use fees, and permit fees. Any profits from the event will go towards funding future events.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Motion was made by Kevin Nelson to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented, and seconded by Jim Johnston. All members voted 'Aye' and the motion passed.

4. Financial Report

Aaron Hieb reviewed the financial report as of May 8, 2026.

Current expenses and award checks that have been written for 2026 are \$84,100.

Current Available Fund Balance of \$65,900.00.

Collections in February 2026 (for January 2026 records) still have one (1) establishment past due.

Collections in March 2026 (for February 2026 records) still have (1) establishment past due.

Collections in April 2026 (for March 2026 records) are \$18,648.00 with (1) establishment past due.

The (1) establishment past due is the same establishment for all three past due collections, which would account for 90–120 total room nights.

The YTD collections for 2026 are \$66,695.00, which equates to 33,348 total room nights sold.

YTD comparisons of room nights sold were: down 6.2% (2,075 room nights sold) from 2025, up 1.2% (392 room nights sold) from 2024, down 1.7% (562 room nights sold) from 2023, down 5.6% from 2022, up 15.2% from 2021, and up 2.0% from 2020.

Motion: Motion was made by Tim Smith to approve the financial report as presented, and seconded by Emily Liedtke. All members voted 'Aye' and the motion passed.

5. Evaluation Forms/Financials/Surveys

Aaron Hieb reviewed the following Evaluation Form(s) w/Financial(s) with the SEA Committee:

A. Evaluation Form(s) w/Financial(s)

Dakota Oyate Challenge Volleyball (October 10-11, 2025)

- The event Exceeded (5) expectations. It was a great tournament. The total participants were 15 teams = 240 participants. The estimated number of total hotel room nights was approximately 320. Next year's event is September 18–19, 2026 in The World's Only Corn Palace. The funds awarded (\$4,200) were used to pay officials, tournament workers, and hotel rooms for officials and workers. Net loss of (619.26).

Pheasants Forever Banquet (October 17, 2025)

- The event Exceeded (5) expectations. The total participants were 750. From all across the United States. The estimated number of total hotel room nights was approximately 200. Next year's event is Friday, October 16, 2026, in The World's Only Corn Palace. The funds awarded (\$2,000) were used to offset the costs of holding the banquet. Profits from the event help benefit the youth hunters in our area. A Pheasants Country Donations listing was shared with the committee.

American Outlaws Wrestling Monster Brawl (November 1–2, 2025)

- The event was Above (4) expectations. This year there was an increase in entries along with more people from out of state. The total spectator attendance was: 700. The total participants were 260 for the individual tournament and 6 teams = 108 wrestlers for the dual tournament on Sunday. The estimated number of total hotel room nights was approximately 150–200. Next year's event date will be a belt series 4-tournament series taking place July 18–19, 2026 and November 14–15, 2026 in Mitchell, SD. The funds awarded (\$2,000) were used for awards. Net profit of \$18,600.88, which will be used to put on future events and help fund the wrestling club.

Hoop City Classic (December 27–30, 2025)

- The event was Above (4) expectations. The total spectators for the youth tournament was 1,572, with 36 teams that accounted for an estimated 30 room nights. The total spectators for the classic were 3,800, with 31 teams = 465 participants. The estimated number of total hotel room nights was approximately 180. Next year's event will be a youth tournament: December 27–28, 2026 and December 28–31, 2026 in Mitchell, SD. The funds awarded (\$12,500) were used to promote the event and pay for expenses. Net profit of 2,368.42, which is used to promote Hoop City events throughout the year.

Dakota Oyate Challenge Basketball (February 5–7, 2026)

- The event met (3) expectations. The total spectator attendance was 1,088. The total participants were 16 teams = 240 players, along with 5 archery teams and 27 hand games teams. The estimated number of total hotel room nights was approximately 800–900 for (4) nights. Next year's event dates are January 28–30, 2027 at The World's Only Corn Palace. The funds awarded (\$7,000) were used to pay officials, the hospitality room, announcers, book, and clock, and additional hotel rooms for officials. Net profit of \$2,452.50, which will be used to fund DOC Volleyball 2026 and DOC Basketball 2027.

6. Other Items

Aaron Hieb shared the following information with the SEA Committee:

A. Update & Review of Playeasy

[Mitchell Sports & Events Authority](#)

- [Playeasy-Thought Leader Series: Partner Engagement and Event Servicing](#)

B. Upcoming SEA Events

- [Memorial Weekend in Mitchell](#) (May 23, 2026)
 - Mitchell Main Street (south)
- [13U & 14U Palace City Baseball Tournament](#) (June 5–7, 2026)
 - Cadwell Sports Complex

Complete list of events – [MITCHELL CHAMBER EVENTS CALENDAR](#) & [Mitchell SD Events Facebook](#)

7. Executive Session in accordance with SDCL 9-34-19: Discussion of confidential trade secrets, commercial, or financial information.

Motion: Emily Liedtke made a motion to go into Executive Session at 2:43 PM, and was seconded by Scott Morgan. All members voted 'Aye' and the motion passed.

8. Approval of Funding Applications

Battle at the Corn Palace 2 presented by 15th Round Boxing

Date: May 16, 2026; **Contact:** George Giovanis; **Grant Request:** \$1,500

- **Motion:** Motion was made by Tim Smith to award \$1,000, and seconded by Jim Johnston. (8) members voted 'Aye' and the motion passed.
- **Abstain:** Mayor Hanson abstained from voting.

South Dakota Golf Association (SDGA) Mid-Am Championship

Date: June 5–7, 2026; **Contact:** Eric Hieb; **Grant Request:** \$800

- **Motion:** Motion was made by Jim Johnston to award \$800, and seconded by LaRee Rumbolz. All members voted 'Aye' and the motion passed.

Mitchell Area Community (MAC) Triathlon

Date: June 6, 2026; **Contact:** Terasa Gillen; **Grant Request:** \$2,500

- **Motion:** Motion was made by Dave Helleloid to award \$1,500 (\$1,000 donation and \$500 Iron Man sponsorship), and seconded by Tim Smith. All members voted 'Aye' and the motion passed.

Kiwanis Youth Baseball Tourney

Date: June 6, 2026; **Contact:** Linda McEntee; **Grant Request:** \$1,000

- **Motion:** Motion was made by Kevin Nelson to award \$1,000, and seconded by Scott Morgan. All members voted 'Aye' and the motion passed.

Lowell Rang Memorial Girls Fastpitch Softball Tournament

Date: June 12–14, 2026; **Contact:** Jim Misiaszek; **Grant Request:** \$3,000

- **Motion:** Motion was made by Jim Johnston to award \$3,000, and seconded by Dave Helleloid. All members voted 'Aye' and the motion passed.

Cornbelt Team Camps

Date: June 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 2026; **Contact:** Josh Davies; **Grant Request:** \$1,250

- **Motion:** Motion was made by Tim Smith to award \$1,250 (\$21/room rebate), and seconded by Scott Morgan. All members voted 'Aye' and the motion passed.

Arts in the Park

Date: July 25–26, 2026; **Contact:** Nancy Conzemius; **Grant Request:** \$2,500

- **Motion:** Motion was made by LaRee Rumbolz to award \$2,500, and seconded by Dave Helleloid. (8) members voted 'Aye' and the motion passed.
- **Abstain:** Mayor Hanson abstained from voting.

9. Next Meeting Date

Kevin McCardle shared the next meeting date of Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 2 PM — City Hall, Council Chambers.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by: Kevin McCardle at 2:59 PM