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Bubbles a liability for Minot City, North Dakota



For recreation directors, few things are more aggravating than purchasing poorly made or installed flooring. Minot's recreation department is replacing the floor in the old armory portion of the Civic Auditorium for the third time. Recreation Director Scott Collins told the Minot City Council's Finance and Improvements Committee Tuesday that the third attempt at new flooring should solve problems that have plagued the building since 2011.

"We have a brand new floor that we have used for four years that's been nothing but problems. Besides the aesthetics of it, it's becoming a liability for the city," Collins said of the bubbling of the rubber floor. The committee is recommending the council spend \$62,780 to replace the floor. Auditorium II is used for youth and adult recreation, children's Fun Zone activities and is rented for wedding receptions and private parties. The city initially replaced the floor in November 2011. Collins said they soon noticed seams coming apart and determined there was a defect in the product.



[Kiefer USA](#) initially installed the floor and relaid it in May 2012. But the same defects developed. The troublesome floor was replaced in August 2012, only to present more problems. Tests later showed a reaction between the flooring glue and the [pyrite](#) and [siltstone](#) in the concrete used when the building was constructed in the 1950s. An analysis in May 2014 found the concrete was detaching from the glue. The engineer at the time determined it was a situation the company could not have anticipated.



The Recreation Commission has worked with the company since then to seek a resolution to what is an ongoing issue. Kiefer agreed to install a floating wood floor system over the [Mondo rubber floor](#) and contribute \$19,720 to leave the city with a bill of \$62,780 for the \$82,500 floor; paid with cash reserves in the recreation/auditorium budget.

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By Betty

Flooring Network

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