
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Directors

Vail Park and Recreation District
dba Vail Recreation District
January 25, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Vail Recreation District, Town of Vail, Eagle County, Colorado, was held on January 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Vail Town Council Chambers, Town of Vail, Eagle County, Colorado, in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State of Colorado.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

1.1. Bob Armour, John Rediker, Jason Plante, Kirk Hansen

2. MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED

2.1. Molly Rabin.

3. STAFF PRESENT

3.1. Mike Ortiz-via zoom, April Heredia, Nell Davis, Scott O'Connell

4. OTHERS PRESENT

4.1. Carol Johnson, Jerry Stevens, Tom McFall, Kathy Kimmel, Billy Suarez, John Gottlieb, Bill Welch, Kim Saalfeld, Connie Welch, John Maxwell

5. CONSULTANTS PRESENT

5.1. Eric Weaver, Marchetti & Weaver, LLC.

6. CALL TO ORDER

6.1. Director Armour called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

7. CHANGES TO AGENDA

7.1. None.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8.1. By motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023, special meeting with an update to section 12.2.

9. PUBLIC INPUT FOR MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA

9.1 Ms. Carol Johnson shared with the board how much pickleball has grown in the valley. She shared her thoughts of how useful the sport is to bringing people out to be more active and helping with the increase in mental health

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- issues. She expressed that it is not a trend and that it is here to stay. She asked for the board to create a focus group and to look at the data to see if there is enough to support a year-round pickleball facility.
- 9.2 Ms. Kathy Kimmell shared the love for the game of pickleball and shared that she was part of a group of 7 individuals looking to get an indoor pickleball facility. She also shared that she felt the group was getting mixed messages about being told to come to VRD board meetings to share their concerns and being told that there is no chance of having indoor pickleball in Vail. She shared her belief that there are opportunities and would like to explore those opportunities to make indoor pickleball happen.
- 9.3 Mr. Billy Suarez also shared his love for the game of pickleball. He asked the board if the group would come back to the board with a viable place for a Pickleball facility that they be added to a future agenda. Mr. Suarez asked if there was a possibility of another night of open play.
- 9.4 Mr. John Gottlieb shared with the board that if Vail doesn't build the facility someone else in the valley will. He sees that it would be a positive draw for Vail to have the facility both in summer and winter. He also shared about blue zones in the world where people live longer lives, and those people play pickleball and are active and this adds to their living longer.
- 9.5 Mr. Jerry Stevens shared his support of an indoor facility. He shared how he felt that it was an attractive draw for a resort community.
- 9.6 Mr. Bill Welch shared how much he enjoys sport and would like to show his support for the sport and its growth. He shared how he has met so many wonderful people playing. He supports the need for the facility.
- 9.7 Director Hansen shared his thoughts on the game and how much he and his wife enjoy it and wanted to encourage the group to get the Town of Vail involved as they are the owners of the land.
10. 2024 MEETING DATES
- 10.1 Mr. Eric Weaver directed the Board to the proposed 2024 meeting dates as listed in the Board packet. The proposed meeting dates for 2024 are the fourth Thursday of every month, except for November and December when the Board will meet on the second Thursday due to the holidays.
- 10.2 By motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the 2024 proposed meeting schedule as presented.
11. 2024 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING POSTING LOCATIONS
- 11.1. Mr. Weaver informed the Board that the posting location for 2024 Board meeting agendas would be on the district's website - www.vailrec.com.
- 11.2. By motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the 2024 resolution designating posting locations as presented.

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12. AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER

- 12.1. Mr. Weaver asked the Board to consider the audit engagement letter as presented in the Board packet from McMahan and Associates. McMahan and Associates has done the district's audit for several years now and is a local company that specializes in auditing government entities.
- 12.2. By motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to again, engage McMahan and Associates for the annual District audit.

13. VRD MOUNTAIN IDEAL DESTINATION RECERTIFICATION

- 13.1. Mr. Mike Ortiz shared with the board what IDEAL Destination Recertification entails for the Town of Vail and the district. He shared it is about sustainability with the whole community not just environmental. He shared that there are many aspects that set the Recreation District apart and started with the drought management plan that the district has with Eagle River Water and Sanitation. He shared how unusual it is for a golf course to have a drought plan has for the golf course. The plan will voluntarily cut off water to the golf course when we are in a drought crisis. He shared the whole IDEAL report which can be found on our website.
- 13.2. Additionally, the recertification auditors were impressed with was our Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuay which the district is designated as. If you play golf, you will see signs that talk about wildlife and plant vegetation throughout the golf course. There are also many different standards that need to be followed and those too can be found in the report on the website. This is a big recognition for Jacob and all his team at golf maintenance.
- 13.3. Mr. Ortiz shared that another recognition was the district's use of hybrid positions throughout the district.
- 13.4. Ms. Andrea Sanchez shared the zero-waste program that is being done currently at Dobson for the Vail Yeti games. She gave the board a quick overview of what the zero-waste program is and how they implement the process at Dobson. She also shared that there are discussions being held to see if they could implement this at the Grill on the Gore. The first step that is going to be taken is to start composting. Currently the program is being planned and the target date to start this is the spring of 2024.

14. ALTERNATIVE ICE-EAGLE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS FOR DOBSON ICE ARENA RENOVATION

- 14.1 Mr. Mike Ortiz shared how he is working with multiple parties to continue to find a location that works best for all parties involved. He shared with the board that Russ Forrest from the Town of Vail is now involved with the process.
- 14.2 Mr. Ortiz says that the best lead currently is with Eagle County.

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15. DECEMBER 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

15.1. Mr. Eric Weaver presented the board with preliminary end-of-year financials. There is still lots of work to clean up the end of the year financials. He shared that revenues ended with the district being \$250K favorable with about 1/3 of that being interest income. Some departments such as community programming had a great year with their programs such as Camp Vail and Kidzone. Dobson and the food and beverage department also finished strong.

15.2 Many departments were able to beat their budgets for expenses as well. Food and beverage made a change of adding a fee to credit card payments that led many people to pay by check and saw savings in their credit card processing fees. This change was made in F&B-Banquets only, credit cards are still accepted at all food and beverage departments.

15.3 Capital finished the year \$200K favorable, most of this is contingency money that is put in for unforeseen expenses. The district finished overall being \$900K favorable and will be able to move 11 million into 2024.

16. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

16.1 Mr. Mike Ortiz shared a few highlights from the director's report that can be found on the website in the board packet.

16.2 He wanted to thank all his staff for doing a great job with their budgets and finishing the year positive. Nordic had a great end of December and are on track to beat budget this season. Sports have been busy with their winter activities and races. He also wanted to recognize how many children our community programming department serviced over Christmas break and daily with their after-school programs.

17. BOARD MEMBER INPUT

17.1 Director Armour wanted to thank the sports team for a great ugly sweater race. This was a great community event.

17.2 Director Armour shared that recently the Town of Vail funded Habitat for Humanity \$2M towards the Timber Ridge housing project. He reminded the public that we currently have committed \$1.6M as well to this project and that the date for no refunds is quickly approaching. He would like the district to research the idea of master leasing some of these units instead of going through with the purchase of the units we currently have committed to. Mr. Mike Ortiz will investigate this and bring the information to the next meeting.

17.2 Director Plante gave thanks to Andrea Sanchez for her work with zero waste and for her work with the sustainable projects within the district. He is glad to see the district is in the forefront of sustainability. He also gave kudos to Jacob and his team for the Audubon certification and asked that we look at the recommendations they gave and try to get a few of them done if we can. He also shared ideas of how

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the district can work with some of the kids at Red Sandstone Elementary to help with our sustainability programs.

17.4 Director Hansen gave high praise to Mr. Ortiz for his staff and their ability to give the highest level of customer service in all of the facilities throughout the district. He also recognized that time is running out for locating temporary ice for Dobson and thanked Mr. Ortiz for all his work in trying to get this done.

17.5 Director Rediker also gave his thanks that the district in taking the lead with our sustainability projects. He likes what the district is doing. He also wanted to acknowledge all the comments that were shared by the public during public input about pickleball and wanted the public to know they are heard. The district is supportive of the program but wanted to point out that the district currently has many capital projects in the works and that pickleball will need to be patient as the district works through all the projects.

18. ADJOURNMENT

18.1. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Vail Recreation District Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Heredia
Secretary to the Meeting