

VAIL PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT  
d/b/a VAIL RECREATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5:00 P.M.  
Thursday, August 19, 2021  
Town of Vail, Council Chambers  
AGENDA  
SPECIAL MEETING

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Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Changes to Agenda;
3. Approval of Minutes;
  - a. July 22, 2021
4. Public Input (for matters not otherwise on Agenda/3-minute time limit/no disrupting, pursuant to § 18-9-108, C.R.S.);
5. New Business and Special Orders;
  - a. Game Balls-Ms. Alice Plain and Ms. Nell Davis- Mr. Mike Ortiz
  - b. Recommendations for Discounted Golf Pass Fees-Mr. Mike Ortiz & Ms. Alice Plain
  - c. Update Golf Course Conditions-Mr. Jacob Tilmann
6. Unfinished Business;
  - a. None
7. Officers, Committees, Staff, and Professional Consultants;
  - a. Executive Director Report- Mr. Mike Ortiz
  - b. Board Member Input
8. Adjournment

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## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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### Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Vail Park and Recreation District  
dba Vail Recreation District  
July 22, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Vail Recreation District, Town of Vail, Eagle County, Colorado, was held on July 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via virtual meeting, in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State of Colorado.

#### 1. MEMBERS PRESENT

- 1.1. Tom Saalfeld, Jason Plante, Kirk Hansen, Roland Kjesbo, Kim Newbury Rediker

#### 2. MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED

- 2.1. None

#### 3. STAFF PRESENT

- 3.1. Mike Ortiz, April Heredia, Caitlin Collins, Jessie Klehfoth

#### 4. OTHERS PRESENT

- 4.1. Jacob Novak, Mark Novak, Alden Pennington, Pam Pennington, Aidan Duffy, Mike Duffy, Kathy Roseberry-Duffy, Kevin Foley

#### 5. CONSULTANTS PRESENT

- 5.1. Eric Weaver

#### 6. CALL TO ORDER

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

#### 7. CHANGES TO AGENDA

- 7.1. None

#### 8. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- 8.1. By motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2021, regular meeting.

#### 9. PUBLIC INPUT FOR MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA

- 9.1. Mr. Kevin Foley shared with the board that he was putting together a coalition to get an updated playground for Red Sandstone Elementary. He expressed how he was working with other entities to get this accomplished

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### Vail Recreation District July 22, 2021, Meeting Minutes

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and would like to get the support of the board to get this accomplished. After little discussion the board agreed to assist in any way possible.

#### 10. PRESENTATION OF VAIL SCHOLARSHIP ATHLETE AWARD

- 10.1. Mr. Mike Ortiz explained to the board that for 2021, the scholarship committee awarded three scholarships to graduating seniors – two to local students who excelled in sports and academics, and one to VRD staff or dependents of staff.
  - 10.1.1. The first student acknowledged was Alden Pennington of Battle Mountain High School who has been an outstanding student as well as a standout athlete. Ms. Pennington also has given a lot of service to our community.
  - 10.1.2. The second student acknowledged was Aidan Duffy, an accomplished mountain biker and outstanding scholar. Mr. Duffy has helped with maintaining trails around the valley. He talked about how important the bike series has been for him for many years now. He has participated in VRD activities since he was a child, and he thanked the VRD.
  - 10.1.3. The third student acknowledged was Jacob Novak of Vail Christian High School. Jacob has worked for VRD for three seasons now. Mr. Novak thanked the district for the award and expressed his gratitude for being chosen.
  - 10.1.4. Mr. Ortiz explained that the scholarship will be for four years if the students maintain a C average or better in college. This is the fifth year VRD has awarded the Vail Scholar Athlete Award and he's very proud of all the previous winners who are continuing to excel at their universities.
  - 10.1.5. Mr. Ortiz talked about the history of the scholarship, and how it honors the memory of Tom Slaughter, Jr. The VRD is proud to carry on his legacy and continue to award these scholarships in his name and continue to raise funding for the scholarship via the Businesses, Bogeys and Bragging Rights charity golf tournament each fall.
- 10.2. Director Rediker let the scholars know that April will be checking in on them to make sure they are maintaining their GPA's and making sure they are doing well in college.
- 10.3. Director Saalfeld thanked Director Rediker and Mike for their work. He is extremely proud of this night every year and the ability to award these scholarships.

#### 11. GOLF COURSE CONDITIONS-HOLE 5 & 14

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11.1. Mr. Mike Ortiz shared with the board an overview of the process and progression of Holes 5 & 14. Opening the new greens too early and the amount of play are two big contributors to the state of the greens. He said Jacob is continuing to do a great job. He shared with the board that they were going to aerify the greens in September this year instead of the usual October. The weather is more predictable in September and therefore this process will be more effective for the greens.

#### 12. BILL WRIGHT TENNIS CENTER UPDATE

12.1 Mr. Mike Ortiz gave an update of all the great upgrades that Caitlin Collins has done for the Bill Wright Tennis Center this year. He shared a small slide show displaying how great it looks with these upgrades. He praised Caitlin for all her hard work, sharing that the courts have been full this year as well as camps. He shared that they are also having USTA League play this year.

12.2 Ms. Caitlin Collins thanks Mr. Ortiz and the board for all their support in allowing her to make the upgrades and the continued support throughout the summer.

#### 13. JUNE 2021 FINANCIALS

13.1 Mr. Eric Weaver shared that the district continues to do well. He reminded the board that the budget was done conservatively, and that staff is doing a good job holding expenses. He shared that revenues were up \$750K compared to budget. Overall, the district is in a financially strong position.

#### 14. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INPUT

14.1 Mr. Mike Ortiz wanted to thank all his staff for all the outstanding programming that they have produced this summer. He shared with the board that all the programming is exceptional, and he is very proud of everyone's hard work and dedication to this organization.

#### 15. BOARD MEMBER INPUT

15.1 Director Plante congratulated all the scholarship winners for their academic success and service. He also once again thanked all staff for their hard work.

15.2 Director Hansen shared his thought about how unique the Vail Recreation District is with its race series and how it truly separates us from other districts and is highly valued by athletes. He also shared how Pickleball community is a growing sport and how we need to think about its future. He also shared how we are in year one of a three-year greens project and we need to have patience for the process.

15.3 Director Rediker welcomed back Jessie Klehfoth from maternity leave. She also asked that a wage and benefit survey needs to be done to make sure the district is staying competitive and fair to its employees.

15.4 Director Kjesbo also shared how impressed he was by the scholarship winners.

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16. ADJOURNMENT

- 16.1. 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

## VAIL RECREATION DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

August 19, 2021

### MARKETING

- Jessie has been helping to lead the charge on the new registration system training. Over the past two weeks, directors and District superusers completed online training on introductions to the various registration system modules. We begin live training this week, with an ambitious goal to complete the live training over the next three weeks. Our tentative (and aggressive) go-live date for the new registration system is on Sept. 16 and will require lots of work and collaboration from all department leaders and staff to get there.
- We have been planning for the 8th Annual Businesses, Bogeys & Bragging Rights Charity Golf Tournament on September 23. With more than a dozen teams already signed up, we are looking forward to a great event! Hole and event sponsors and silent auction-raffle prizes are still being sought.
- We've been keeping busy with many communications and marketing projects for all departments. We are also starting work on the all-VRD winter brochure.
- We continue to advertise in the Vail Daily, on local radio, on social media and online for all programs. We've been very pleased with how efficiently we've been able to market our programs to locals and visitors and see the success of those efforts reflected in the great participation numbers across all departments.
- Nell and Bobby should be commended for all the hard work they did while Jessie was on maternity leave. They really stepped up to take on new projects this summer out of their comfort zones, and Jessie is very proud of their professional growth over the past few months.

### GOLF

- Alice was awarded PGA Colorado Section Golf Professional of the Year. She recently won the PGA Colorado West Chapter Golf Professional of the Year, but this is the entire Colorado Section which includes the state as well as parts of Wyoming and South Dakota. This is the most prestigious award given annually in the PGA. The awards banquet will take place late October in Parker, Colo. at the Colorado Golf Club.
- Nathan organized and taught the "Gourmet Golf on the Gore" and it went very well. The point of this new offering is to create a "Topgolf" level golf event right here at the Vail Golf Club. The group consisted of 11 people hosted by BluSky Restoration. The event consisted of group and private golf instruction as well as freshly prepared, appetizer-sized dishes (lamb meatballs, poke crisps, antipasto skewers, etc.) and a wide selection of beer and wine. The event was run by Head Golf Professional Nathan Mead, intern Hunter Dimock, and Executive Chef John Zavoral.
- The driving range continues to be busy since we opened on May 14. Golf shop sales have been off the charts. We have already sold over 1,200 hats and our previous record for the year was 1,200 in hat sales.
- Our PGA interns head back to school next week. We will miss them this fall! What a great group of young men this year. Hunter Dimock is planning to come back next year and he also plans to help recruit new students for our 2022 PGA intern class. We have several high

school and college age staff this year and they will also be heading back to school. Our staff numbers will be shrinking quickly as of August 15.

- The golf course continues to be at full capacity. We are busy seven days a week and had over 6,000 rounds of golf in July. These are similar numbers to golf rounds last year in July.

## **GOLF MAINTENANCE**

### **New greens: 1, 5, 6, 7, 11, and 14**

- 1. Health, color, roots and turf stand are good.
- 5. Five has bounced back since the closing. Health, color, roots and turf stand are good.
- 6. Health, color, roots and turf stand are good.
- 7. Health, color, roots and turf stand are good.
- 11. Health, color, roots and turf stand are good.
- 14. Sod from Magic Valley came in warm, burnt, and diseased. We replaced patches with our nursery and have been closely monitoring the situation for optimal recovery and proper health going into winter. The overall smoothness of the back two-thirds is one hundred percent improved.

### **Aerification of holes 2, 9, 10 and 18 on July 31, 2021**

- Aerification was a success even though we received 0.56 inches of rain the night before.
- We had to skip 4 green due to somewhat unfavorable conditions. 4 green will be included in the next round of aerification.
- Holes were fully recovered within six days.
- August 25 is our next scheduled aerification for those individual holes, including number 4.

### **Fall aerification: September 27, 2021**

- Holes 1, 5, 6, 7, 11 and 14 will be solid tined, no core aerification for those individual holes.
- Holes 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 18, Alt 15, old 18, PG, and CG will be core aerated with one-half inch coring tines.
- Holes 3, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 19 will not be involved in the aerification process due to phase two of our greens renovation process. Hole 19 will be sod stripped, thatched stripped, deep tined, and one-half inch in preparation of resurfacing of dominator bentgrass from hole 16 during phase two green renovation.

### **Greens renovation: Start date scheduled October 4, 2021**

- The golf course closing date is scheduled on October 10, 2021. This will allow the VGC to close hole 3 on October 4 to start reconstruction. The front right of the green will be raised and softened to add additional playable hole locations.
- The next green to be reconstructed will be hole 13. The good dominator bentgrass sod on 13 will be stripped and planted on our 14 and 15 nursery area. Vail golf maintenance will have 14 and 15 nursery areas prepped and ready for sod. The nursery areas are 11,500 square feet, or roughly the same square footage as holes 13 and 15.
- The next green to be renovated will be 12 green. The sod on 12 green will need to be removed and scraped to our dump site along with the old subgrade.
- While 12 is being renovated, the good dominator bentgrass sod from 15 green will be stripped and planted on 15 nursery.
- 15 green will be the next green for reconstruction.

- The next green of the reconstruction will be 16. The dominator bentgrass from 16 will be placed on 19 green in hopes to save the turf and turn 19 green into an all dominator bentgrass green.
- 17 green will be the last green to be renovated.
- Samples will be taken from the new rootzone and the six newly renovated greens of 2021 and analyzed for a pre-plant fertilizer for the spring of 2022. The pre-plant fertilizer will either be blended and held off-site until ready for use or spread individually. We will investigate the best options for the pre-plant application to apply in the spring.
- Most post-plant fertilizer is already on hand at the vail maintenance facility, and additional needed will be ordered in a timely manner to ensure enough is on-site for all post-fertilizer applications for the golf year of 2022.
- Contact with Magic Valley Bentgrass Sod Farms will continue to ensure a healthy turf crop during the spring of 2022.
- New walking implements have been purchased and tested and have exceeded expectations for next spring's renovation process.

#### **Tees:**

- Except for a few teeing surfaces, all tee boxes are in great health.
- Willows will be aggressively trimmed in the fall and spring while willows are non-leafy to solve blind tee shots.
- Tee aerification will begin after greens aerification, the week of September 27.

#### **Fairways:**

- Fairways are in great health.
- Additional nutrients have been added this year to promote health and vigor.
- Aerification of fairways will begin the week of September 27.

#### **Bunkers:**

- Bunkers are in need of additional bunker sand and bunker face replacement.
- Rocks are picked daily but are still a nuisance.

#### **SPORTS**

- We just finished five days of the Kids Adventure Games. The games included three days of racing in a new location - Maloit Park in Minturn. Awards, a balance bike race, bib pickups and clinics were all held in Vail. A big thanks to everyone who volunteered to help make the event such a success. Also, a big thanks to Town of Vail and Town of Minturn for their support.
- We have been enjoying our new chip timing system and so far so good. As we continue to improve and gain confidence, we will introduce live scoring.
- Field use continues to be busy, we just hosted the Vail Wine Classic on the athletic field and this weekend's Triple Bypass finishes at Ford Park. We have also hosted a bunch of corporate team building events on the fields.



- Summer adult leagues have been running well, with good participation: 14 coed soccer teams, 24 softball teams, 14 cornhole teams, and 25 adult sand volleyball teams. They are moving into their playoff season. We are working on all fall adult sports offerings: adult flag football, coed soccer and indoor volleyball.
- Summer sports camps were extremely busy, many with record attendance. We will be talking about the structure of the camps over the coming weeks with the difficulty of finding coach housing this summer.
- Registration for fall youth soccer just closed with 150 kids signed up.
- Dynafit Trail Running Series and Bloch and Chapleau Town Mountain Bike Series have had great participation with happy athletes.
  - Upcoming Races:
    - Mountain Biking: August 18, Camp Hale
    - Trail Running: August 21, New Arrowhead Half Marathon and 5K
    - Mountain Biking: Sept. 1, Beaver Creek
    - Trail Running: September 11, Meadow Gold, Minturn
- We will be working with Battle Mountain High School's cross country team to produce their home meet on August 28.
- We are working with the middle schools on a possible championship cross country meet on September 25.
- Working with marketing, golf and VCBA to plan the BB&B golf tournament benefiting Tom Slaughter Memorial Youth Fund. This year's event is Sept. 23, and the theme is "Vintage Vail."
- Working with High Fives Foundation to plan their Colorado charity golf tournament at Vail Golf Club on Aug. 25. The tournament is already sold out!

## **PICKLEBALL**

- The VRD outdoor pickleball season has not slowed down at Golden Peak. Even though 2020 was a very good year for VRD pickleball at Golden Peak, 2021 is even better with substantial increases in participation and revenue.
- Organized pickleball is offered at Golden Peak on six dedicated, cushioned pickleball courts that are open and staffed seven days a week. It is a unique distinction for a Vail venue that all six courts are completely booked almost every day from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. There were over 6,100 individual total player reservations in July and over 2,700 individual reservations as of August 15 at the Golden Peak courts.
- Skills and drills and round robin sessions continue to be completely booked on all six courts on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Court reservations can be made on the hour for play from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day. Players can call 970-390-2952, email [pickleball@vailrec.com](mailto:pickleball@vailrec.com) or use the [holdmycourt](https://www.holdmycourt.com) reservation website to reserve courts.
- The pickleball staff at Golden Peak is available every day at the courts to help players set up games, and to run clinics and lessons. A successful season of weekly junior clinics concluded on August 13 and Camp Vail kids sessions have been held every Tuesday all summer.
- Summer VRD pickleball Ppasses are currently on sale and can be purchased online at the VRD website or in person at the courts. So far, we have sold 100 new 2020/21 annual passes for the season that began October 1, 2020 and ends September 30, 2021, and 105 summer passes for the 2021 outdoor season that runs from June 1 to September 30.

## **DOBSON**

- The last week of July we hosted Eddie Shipstad and a group of figure skaters, as Eddie hosted his camp/clinic for the second year in a row. We had a couple local skaters participate. The camp/clinic brought over 30 skaters to Vail for at least a three-night visit.
- The first week of August we hosted three separate hockey camps.
  - Angelo Ricci hosted a three-day clinic for youth players. Angelo owns the Colorado Thunderbirds AAA hockey program in Denver and is also the skills coach for the Philadelphia Flyers. Angelo has been doing this camp for almost seven years now. The camp had approximately 45 skaters.
  - Pro Ambitions hosted their annual camp for the 13<sup>th</sup> time in Vail. This is a week-long camp which had close to 30 skaters participate.
  - Andrei Krivokrasov who owns Krivo Hockey School in Denver hosted a girls camp for the week. They had 18 skaters attend.
- August 9-12 we hosted a figure skating camp put on by the Skating Club of Vail. They rented three to four hours each day.
- Our adult hockey leagues continued through the last month. We still have a couple more weeks left for our summer league. Fall leagues will start a week after Labor Day.
- On August 13 we hosted a Hispanic music dance. We peaked out at 678 attendees. We thought that was pretty good given the heightened awareness around COVID-19, but mostly because the canyon was still closed. Many of our attendees travel from Glenwood, Rifle and Grand Junction.

## **PARKS**

- We have replaced, raised and leveled 12 irrigation heads on HPS stadium field for better irrigation coverage.
- The goal creases from the lacrosse tournaments have filled in and are healthy.
- We have hosted the Vail Invitational Soccer tournament, Kick it 3V3 soccer, Trans-Rockies, and several youth camps.
- We received our two-day training on the Turf Tank line painter. It has been a huge asset in time savings and quality and consistency of field lines.
- All fields have had their late summer fertilizer application.
- HPS has also been aerated and seeded.

## **GYMNASTICS**

- The Vail Gymnastics Classic will take place on September 18 and 19 at Dobson Ice Arena. We are planning this event as normal and will be using two sets of equipment which can accommodate larger numbers. This competition will host levels 2 -5 and Xcel Bronze and Silver. We have just over 200 gymnasts preregistered in the event.
- We finished our final summer camp of the season on Friday, August 13. Five of the week-long camps were full at 40 kids. Several weeks had 60+ children on waitlists.
- The fall gymnastics schedule will begin on Monday, August 30. Over half of the programs are currently full with waitlists.
- The competitive team members will be at the Minturn Market on Saturday, August 21 selling Palisade Peaches. This fundraiser will help with competitive team costs including their travel competition to Orlando, FL in February.

## **COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING**

- Mountain Bike clinics ended June 29. One staff member continued offering privates through Aug 11. We had many pleased customers with both the clinics and the privates.
- Camp Eco Fun ended on August 12. As always, this camp has a loyal following of families and many happy children and parents.
- Camp Vail continues (as Camp Unleashed) out of Golden Peak Children's Center through Friday, Aug. 20.
- Pre Kamp Vail continues through Friday, Aug. 20.
- KidZone After School began Monday Aug. 16.
- Alex Hutchins has accepted a full-time, benefitted position as Community Programming Recreation Specialist. She has been a summer seasonal employee for seven years; she knows our programs and Sara and Chad know we work well with her.
- Imagination Station reservations have been cut to half the price (\$25) for half the group size (six) and allowing four groups at any one time. We will continue with reservations until we are out of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will open on Saturdays beginning Saturday, Sept. 11.