
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Directors

Vail Park and Recreation District
dba Vail Recreation District
May 24, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Vail Recreation District, Town of Vail, Eagle County, Colorado, was held on May 24, 2018 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. Tom Saalfeld, Kim Newbury Rediker, Roland Kjesbo, Bill Suarez, Jason Plante

2. MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED

2.1. None

3. STAFF PRESENT

3.1. Mike Ortiz, Jessie Klehfoth, April Heredia, Alice Plain, Scott Todd

4. OTHERS PRESENT

4.1. Dave Chapin, Kristin Olson, Todd Mossa, Kirk Hansen

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 May 10, 2018 regular meeting, with Director Saalfeld abstaining due to absence.

9. PUBLIC INPUT FOR MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA

9.1. None

10. OATH OF OFFICE

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- 10.1. Mrs. April Heredia, the Designated Election Official for the Vail Recreation District, swore in Director Saalfeld.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 11.1. Mr. Ortiz asked for a nomination for the chairman and secretary/treasurer positions on the Board. Director Suarez nominated Director Saalfeld as chairman. Director Kjesbo seconded. Director Suarez volunteered to continue to serve as secretary/treasurer, with the remaining board members serving as assistant secretary/treasurers. Director Newbury Rediker seconded. Both votes were approved unanimously.

12. ASSIGNMENT OF COUNCIL PEERS

- 12.1. Director Saalfeld explained that each VRD Board Director should be assigned a council member with whom to talk throughout the year on various issues. Director Plante chose Mayor Chapin. Director Suarez chose councilmembers Jen Mason and Jenn Bruno. Director Newbury Rediker will work with councilmembers Greg Moffet and Kevin Foley, Director Kjesbo will work with councilman Travis Coggin and Director Saalfeld chose councilwoman Kim Langmaid.

13. ASSIGNMENT OF RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 13.1. Directors Suarez and Saalfeld volunteers to continue serving on the recreation sub-committee.

14. VAIL GOLF CLUB COURSE CONDITION REPORT

- 14.1. Mr. Scott Todd, Vail Golf Club superintendent, gave a very detailed and comprehensive overview of the current course conditions at the Vail Golf Club. Due to the unusual weather patterns and snow conditions over the winter, areas of the golf club sustained unique and extensive damage to some greens and fairways. Mr. Todd talked about how they are evaluating the damage and looking for all the reasons, in order to protect against them in the future. Mr. Todd spoke about the different processes and procedures they've been using to recuperate the damaged areas, including aerating, slicing, covering and mowing healthy turf. He said that six greens are now healthy enough for play, and the putting green will go into play tomorrow. The other 13 greens are still under cover and in varying stages of growth and recovery. There is no specific timeline for putting those into play, and they will wait to open them until they are healthy and can sustain health throughout the summer.
- 14.2. Director Saalfeld asked Mr. Todd his golf superintendent history. Mr. Todd said he has been at the Vail Golf Club since October 2011. From 1993-2010, he worked at the Club at Cordillera, and before that he worked for two

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summers and a fall at the Sonnenalp golf course. Mr. Todd has over 20 years of superintendent experience in the Vail Valley, and he said he has never seen anything like this. Mr. Todd also stated that there are other golf courses who have seen similar damage this spring, including Keystone (20 greens damaged), Pole Creek outside of Granby (four greens), Breckenridge (nine greens under cover), and Crested Butte Country Club, who all reported the same kind of damage. Mr. Todd observed that greens that were sodded to bentgrass over the past six years came out much better. Mr. Todd showed some before and current photos of some of the damaged greens and how well they have started to grow back in the past two weeks. Mr. Todd also clarified that the damage had nothing to do with improper application of chemicals. He talked about some future ideas, including transitioning the greens to bentgrass, but this would require regrading the greens for better water drainage. Currently, many greens are under specialized covers, which helps to elevate the temperatures of the greens on sunny days by 15-20 degrees, thus encouraging better growing conditions. Mr. Todd explained their process of uncovering, mowing, top dressing, seeding and recovering groups of greens every few days in an organized rotation.

- 14.3. Mr. Ortiz stated that one of the options when the damage was discovered was to resod the greens, however that would have taken almost the same time to prepare as the seeding and growth, and would have cost significantly more. There also is a limited availability of sod and seed because of all the damage around the state and mountain region. Both are in higher demand than normal.
- 14.4. Director Newbury Rediker expressed her thanks to Mr. Todd and said we're in good hands. She thinks the Board and staff need to do capital planning to prepare for the future and the possibility of similar winter conditions starting to become more of the norm.
- 14.5. Mr. Ortiz thanked Ms. Alice Plain for her research and calling around to other courses to learn about their damage. He thanked Mr. Todd and the golf maintenance staff for working tirelessly.
- 14.6. Mr. Todd thanked the Board and Mr. Ortiz for their support.

15. BOARD APPROVAL OF 2018 ADJUSTED GOLF FEES

- 15.1. Ms. Alice Plain addressed the Board and thanked other local golf courses for their support during this early season. Specifically, she mentioned Eagle Ranch for taking on the state golf tournament that was originally scheduled for the Vail Golf Club and Eagle Vail for taking another event.
- 15.2. Because of the course conditions, Ms. Plain proposed a discounted daily fee rate through June 15 of 40% off the early season rate. That puts an 18-hole round at the rate of \$30 for walkers. She explained that as of tomorrow they will have 15 holes of golf available, with difficulty opening the full course and putting temporary greens on the par 3 holes. The discounted rate for 9 holes

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will be \$21 and the same rate will apply to juniors walking 18 holes. Ms. Plain explained the public cart fees would remain the same, with a discounted cart fee for passholders.

- 15.3. Ms. Plain also addressed the pass rates, and since they are looking at some of the greens being unplayable for one third of the regular season, she proposed a 35% discount on the golf portion of each season pass price. This means the Silver pass goes from \$1,000 to \$650, the gold pass received a \$350 discount (as it also includes cart fees, club storage, range fees and locker access). The young adult pass and eagle county passes were also discounted 35% each. Finally, Ms. Plain stated the punch cards would be offered at a 10% discount, since the daily rate is a better deal in the early season anyway, and players typically save their punches for the peak season.
- 15.4. Ms. Plain stated there will be a significant impact to the golf course financially, as there are not many golfers playing currently. She said they will start running carts tomorrow, with 15 holes available for play and six regulation greens open.
- 15.5. Ms. Plain stated that it's important to have the support of all of our passholders, including punch card holders.
- 15.6. After some discussion, Ms. Plain stated that people who had already purchased passes would be refunded the difference to the new prices.
- 15.7. Mr. Todd Mossa gave public comment and thanked Ms. Plain and the Board for their time and considering the discounts. He asked Ms. Plain if they had considered the end-of-year construction in the discounted time. She explained that there would still be 18 holes available then. He also asked her to consider offering a gold pass with just the cart and greens fees. She said they do offer that as an option. Mr. Mossa commended the staff on doing a great job of getting the greens back and recommended publicizing the good that's happening.
- 15.8. Town of Vail Mayor Dave Chapin gave public input. He thanked Mr. Mossa for his great comments and said he wouldn't want to be in the golf staff or Board's shoes. He agreed more positive information would be good to share. He reiterated the financial implications and understands the meaning of the golf course to the Vail economy and community. He thought the decision to seed the course and not close it down was a good one and was thankful for the discounts. He closed saying the facility and staff are fabulous and expects a quick rebound.

16. APRIL 2018 FINANCIALS

- 16.1. Mr. Weaver talked through the financials and said the cash increase shown is due to residents pre-paying property taxes, this will level out. He talked about how golf is an unknown with the greens damage and expects at least a \$100K hit, probably \$58K on pass and punch sales. On the expense side they've also been

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impacted with having to order covers, seed, sod and changing wages. Mr. Weaver explained that department heads submit variance reports monthly to keep him informed where we are trending throughout the year. The goal is to always be able to finish the year with enough cash on hand until taxes start coming in the spring. Mr. Weaver said other departments are doing well on the revenue side. He said the Nordic Center was down due to rough winter conditions but was pleased overall for a first-year operation. He stated Dobson is doing really well, some is based on timing, plus increased sales and alcohol sales at events. On the expense side, he sees more positives than negatives. Mr. Weaver stated that not having an election saved the district about \$15K. Mr. Weaver estimated the VRD will finish within \$60K of budget by the end of year, but that may change drastically in a month when more golf numbers are known. He believes the VRD can weather the storm without any major financial issues.

17. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INPUT

- 17.1. Mr. Ortiz thanked Mr. Todd, Ms. Plain and Mrs. Klehfoth for working through the golf course challenges.
- 17.2. He explained that the sports department is about halfway through the whitewater series and done with the short track mountain bike series. He said the first bike series had 57 kids participate. Next Wednesday will be the first adult bike race – expecting 300 participants at the Battle at Bellyache.
- 17.3. First running race last Saturday – 220 finishers. Doing really well.
- 17.4. Mr. Ortiz said marketing had gotten all the major summer collateral pieces out, including projects for tennis, golf, sports and youth services. He commended marketing for the big summer guide with all the activities, times, costs, and the great photography and job Mrs. Nell Davis does laying it all out. He is very proud of the marketing materials produced. He also talked about how Mrs. Klehfoth is helping Ms. Caitlin Collins get tennis set up on the online registration system and continues to research what else we can do with that system.
- 17.5. Mr. Ortiz shared a bit of sad news that Flip with the lacrosse tournament passed away last week. He said there is going to be a memorial service during this year's tournament.
- 17.6. Mr. Ortiz mentioned that gymnastics hired a new coach - Danielle Salinsky. The girls have been working with her the past few summers, and she just graduated college so they are excited to bring her on full time. Toni Blout will come for a fourth summer, a well-known coach who has coached Olympic athletes.
- 17.7. Mr. Ortiz commended the parks maintenance department who have everything rolling and have taken on more duties at EagleVail to help keep events in Vail. He talked about the big advantage to have more fields to spread out wear

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and tear and also to host bigger events with more fields in play. He said Mr. Joel Rabinowitz has done a great job with building relationships with local schools and other entities. He said Mr. Jim Sanders, parks director, is up and running, with water turned on to the fields and also some covers to fix damage (wear patterns) and help them come back more quickly.

- 17.8. Mr. Ortiz stated traffic at Imagination Station has been good, and Mr. Chad Young has done a ton of work, preparing for the move from after-school to summer camps, and also moving to Maloit Park for after-school next year. Mr. Young has been working tirelessly because the summer day camps are state licensed, and he is shifting everything to Golden Peak with the construction at Red Sandstone Elementary School. Mr. Ortiz thanked Vail Resorts for help with the facility and everything they do for VRD.
- 17.9. Mr. Ortiz said that Dobson is getting a big facelift, there's a new 40th anniversary logo in the ice, and new bleachers being installed. Mr. Ortiz mentioned the MMA event that hosted 877 spectators and was broadcast on national TV. He said it was lots of fun, and the town staff was there and came away impressed. Thanks to Mr. Jared Biniecki for making it all go. He also said they had a Cinco de Mayo public celebration the next day that did quite well.
- 17.10. Mr. Ortiz explained that the Vail Tennis Center is now open and encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy.
- 17.11. He also mentioned that the Golden Peak Pickleball Center is now open. They are working with the school district on a plan to use the Ski & Snowboard Academy over the winter for indoor pickleball.
- 17.12. Finally, Mr. Ortiz stated he is very proud of all the staff – everyone banded together to tighten their belts with the golf issues and making everything go.

18. BOARD MEMBER INPUT

- 18.1. Director Saalfeld thanked Mr. Ortiz and said it's a testimony to his leadership for having retained great directors.
- 18.2. Director Plante thanked Mr. Todd and Ms. Plain for their hard work.
- 18.3. Director Suarez reiterated what Director Plante said and added that the golf staff has the Board's full support and hopes that everyone can appreciate how hard this job is. He's excited for tennis to open and asked if King of the Mountain Volleyball is still happening, to which Mr. Ortiz responded yes.
- 18.4. Director Newbury Rediker asked Mr. Ortiz to please have staff continue to send volunteer opportunities to the Board, as she would like to help when it works with her work schedule. She also stated she will not be at the next meeting.
- 18.5. Director Kjesbo thanked Ms. Plain and Mr. Todd and said they have the Board's support and are doing a great job.

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- 18.6. Director Saalfeld asked if we could schedule site visits during the summer, possibly with town council. Mr. Ortiz said they've been scheduled for the June 19 council session.
- 18.7. Director Saalfeld said he saw in the paper that Governor Hickenlooper signed an extension to the Colorado Lottery funding for recreation.
- 18.8. Director Newbury Rediker closed with thanking the marketing team for great new tennis and pickleball logos.

19. ADJOURNMENT

- 19.1. 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,
Jessie Klehfoth
Secretary to the Meeting