
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Directors

Vail Park and Recreation District
dba Vail Recreation District
October 12, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Vail Recreation District, Town of Vail, Eagle County, Colorado, was held on October 12, 2017 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, Kevin Foley

2. MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED

2.1. Bill Suarez

3. STAFF PRESENT

3.1. Mike Ortiz, Jessie Klehfoth

4. OTHERS PRESENT

4.1. Mark Gordon, Greg Clifton

5. CONSULTANTS PRESENT

5.1. None

6. CALL TO ORDER

6.1. Director Saalfeld called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

7. CHANGES TO AGENDA

7.1. None

8. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

8.1. By motion duly made and seconded it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2017 regular meeting, with Director Foley abstaining due to absence.

9. PUBLIC INPUT FOR MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA

9.1. Mr. Mark Gordon addressed the Board to say he was running for Vail Town Council. He also briefly spoke about his history with VRD and how his child grew up in VRD programming. He remembers a time when he was previously on council when there was tension between the Town and VRD and said it's

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Vail Recreation District October 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

really nice to see how the Town and VRD have worked together to get to where they are today. He also said he is supporting the upcoming VRD Ballot Issue A and has talked to a number of locals who have nothing bad to say about the VRD.

- 9.2. Director Saalfeld noted that new Town of Vail Town Manager Mr. Greg Clifton was in the audience and stated how important it is for the town and VRD to work closely together.

10. UPDATE ON BALLOT ISSUE A

- 10.1. Mr. Ortiz talked about Ballot Issue A and that he is getting questions about how property taxes and the mill levy portion of taxes are calculated. He said he's also been getting questions about funding solutions besides raising the mill levy. Mr. Ortiz answered that the other options are to raise fees or cut programs. In the board packet was a page showing the present-day fees and then showing an increase of 35% across the board, which is what they may need to be raised to if the mill levy does not pass. Mr. Ortiz explained that the problem with raising fees is that participation may drop, and if that happens, it really doesn't solve the problem. A fee raise may work for some programs, but not for others. Mr. Ortiz gave the example that if a day of day camp goes up \$19+ per day, it really precludes it from being a viable option for daycare.
- 10.2. Mr. Ortiz also reminded property owners that it would be helpful to figure out what their taxes are currently and what they would be next year, as while the VRD mill levy rate may go up, due to the Colorado state law and Gallagher Amendment, an owner's total taxes may actually go down next year.
- 10.3. Mr. Ortiz also talked about how the amount of programming VRD has today has gone way up when compared to 1993 when VRD took over the original mill levy. Mr. Ortiz started with the VRD in 1993 and was brought in to begin the youth sports department, which didn't exist before then. Mr. Ortiz also talked about how there was no gymnastics program, no new clubhouse, no imagination station, and many other programs. He talked about the VRD mission statement that says the VRD is here to serve the residents, guests and workers, all of whom are important parts of what the VRD does.
- 10.4. Mr. Ortiz reminded the commercial property owners that the VRD serves the local workforce as well, even if they don't live in Vail, and also brings guests to town and businesses via tournaments and programs. Mr. Ortiz said that if fees were to go up 35%, a golf pass would go from \$1,000 to \$1,350. He said that many passholders are service workers, and that increase may be a stretch for many of the current passholders. With children's programs, that's a big increase for working families and Vail families who rely on these services.
- 10.5. Director Saalfeld stated that if the ballot issue doesn't pass, and the VRD does not get a mill levy increase and does raise all fees, the VRD will still not be able

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Vail Recreation District October 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

to capture enough money to cover capital costs even if the amount of users remains the same.

- 10.6. Mr. Ortiz reminded viewers that if you want to have a thriving community, you have to keep investing in it, and that's the secret to Vail and how the town survived the downturn. He also stated that the VRD does not receive any of the millions of dollars of sales tax benefit from the numerous tournaments and events that take place on the VRD-managed fields, the VRD relies solely on property tax and user fees. Ortiz stated the VRD mill levy works like an insurance policy to keep the community thriving, keep property values up, and keep guests coming to town. The ballot issue is asking for a small increase of \$36 on a property valued at \$500,000. Mr. Ortiz reminded everyone that we are all in the recreation business in this town - whether you build homes or work in a bar, we are all here to provide recreation.
- 10.7. Director Rediker stated that it's important to emphasize that the VRD Board does not want to cut programs, that would be a last resort as all the program are so important to Vail guests, local workers and residents. She reiterated that there is no priority list of what order programs would be cut because it's a last resort they hope not to have to use.
- 10.8. Mr. Ortiz reminded voters that ballots will go out via mail next week and must be returned by Nov. 7. To be eligible to vote, a voter must be registered in the state of Colorado and cannot be registered somewhere else even if they own property in Vail. Voters can request a ballot to be mailed somewhere else. Ballots can be dropped off at the Vail Tennis Center, and the office of the Designated Election Official, at the Marchetti and Weaver office in Edwards. On election day, there will also be a ballot box located at the Town of Vail Municipal Building during the Town Council election. More information is available at www.vailrec.com/elections.

11. VRD BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR BALLOT ISSUE A

- 11.1. By motion duly made and seconded it was RESOLVED to unanimously approve a Resolution of Support for the Ballot Issue A at the November 7, 2017 Special Election. The resolution contained the following language:
 - 11.1.1. The Vail Park and Recreation District ("VRD") is a quasi-municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Colorado (the "State") and a duly organized and existing special district pursuant to Title 32, Article 1, C.R.S.
 - 11.1.2. The Board of Directors of VRD (the "Board") has determined that the interest of VRD and the public interest and necessity require that VRD increase its property tax levy.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Vail Recreation District October 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

- 11.1.3. The Board further has determined that it is necessary to submit to the eligible electors of VRD the question of authorizing VRD to increase its property tax levy at the election to be held on November 7, 2017 as “Ballot Issue A”.
- 11.1.4. VRD operates and manages facilities and provides services to the Vail community. Since VRD was created as a special district separate from the Town of Vail, it has substantially increased programming and taken management of new facilities to keep up with growing resident and guest demand. This has resulted in increased costs.
- 11.1.5. Under its current tax constraints, VRD faces a gap in its ability to pay the costs of capital replacement. The existing levy was intended to cover operation costs only, not capital replacement; and this operating tax rate has not been increased in the 24 years that VRD has grown. This tax increase is designed to enable VRD to pay for capital replacement as the needs arise.
- 11.1.6. VRD operates the Vail Golf Club, Dobson Ice Arena, Vail Tennis Center, Vail Nordic Center, Vail Gymnastics Center, Golden Peak Pickleball Center, Zeke M. Pierce Skatepark, Vail Athletic Fields, Imagination Station and Community Programming Room, Vail Nature Center, after-school programs and open gyms at Red Sandstone Elementary School, summer day camps and sports camps, adult sports leagues, trail running, mountain biking and whitewater races, art and fitness classes and many of Vail’s favorite family events and tournaments.
- 11.1.7. Without this increase, rates would have to be increased 35 percent across the board, which means an annual silver golf pass now costing \$1,000 would increase to \$1,350; a softball team’s fees would increase from \$585 to \$789.75 and one day of youth summer camp would increase from \$55 to \$74. These higher rates would make many of our programs unaffordable to many of our constituents.
- 11.1.8. New funding would keep the facilities and operations environmentally friendly for residents and guests, and align VRD with the Town of Vail’s Sustainable Destination designation. Examples of this include replacing the inefficient chiller system at Dobson Ice Arena, updating the restrooms at the Vail Athletic Field, and pursuing solar power and energy saving programs at each of the VRD facilities.
- 11.1.9. Keeping VRD’s rates affordable will add to Vail’s sense of community by preserving affordable recreational and educational opportunities for Vail’s residents, children and working families.
- 11.1.10. The money would replace outdated equipment and address the major repair backlog to upgrade and renovate facilities, such as updating the bleachers, scoreboards, sound system and concession at Dobson Ice Arena; the starter house and bridges at the Vail Golf Club; kids’ exhibits at the Imagination Station; and the old Vail Tennis Center building.
- 11.1.11. A yes vote on Ballot Issue A is a vote to preserve affordable recreational opportunities for all of Vail’s residents and guests, and to upgrade and maintain safe and modern facilities for generations to come.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Vail Recreation District October 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

- 11.1.12. If passed, Ballot Issue A will provide VRD with an extra 1.000 mill levy, which results in an annual tax increase of \$36 for a house worth \$500,000.
- 11.1.13. It is the opinion of the Board of Directors of VRD that increasing its property tax levy will promote the health, safety and welfare of the entire community.
- 11.1.14. NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Vail Park and Recreation District in the County of Eagle, State of Colorado that:
 - 11.1.14.1. The above and foregoing Recitals are incorporated herein by reference and are adopted as findings and determinations of the Board.
 - 11.1.14.2. The Board recommends that every elector give VRD's Ballot Issue A serious consideration and strong support on November 7.
 - 11.1.14.3. VRD officials are authorized and directed to take all actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the provisions of this Resolution, and to make this Resolution available to the public.
 - 11.1.14.4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.
- 11.2. Director Foley stated that the Vail Town Council will also be considering a resolution of support for the VRD Ballot Issue A at the town council meeting next week.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- 12.1. Mr. Ortiz stated the Vail Golf Club would be closing on Oct. 22, and encouraged the Board and public to check out the merchandise deals at the pro shop currently. He said the course is still in great shape and encouraged golfers to get out and play.
- 12.2. Mr. Ortiz said that open gym programs are starting at Red Sandstone Elementary School for the winter, including basketball on Mondays and volleyball on Fridays. Futsal soccer will begin when the mountain opens.
- 12.3. Mr. Ortiz mentioned that Mr. Joel Rabinowitz had helped with the Vail Soccer Tournament and did all of the scheduling for them. The VRD staff also assisted in putting together all the fields, painting lines and putting the equipment together to run the tournament. Mr. Ortiz stated he was proud of Mr. Jim Sanders for all work he does with the fields.
- 12.4. Mr. Ortiz stated the food and beverage operations are still open at the Vail Golf Club, and they will also be assisting with a few more Hispanic dances planned for October at the Dobson Ice Arena.
- 12.5. Mr. Ortiz also talked about plans for programming at Red Sandstone Elementary during the upcoming school construction. He learned that the school functions are planning to move to the Maloit Park campus for the 2018-19 school year and that the VRD needs to start thinking about how to handle after-school and gymnastics programs that currently take place at the Vail school. He hopes to have the Red Sandstone principal come to a future board meeting, and discussions were had about how to transport students to gymnastics and how to

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Vail Recreation District October 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

involve the school district in keeping the after-school programs for working parents.

- 12.6. Mr. Ortiz reiterated that all summer camps for 2018 summer will be located at the Golden Peak Ski School building, and thank you to Vail Resorts and the State of Colorado for accommodating those. He also thanked VMS for offering to host the camps at their campus as well.
- 12.7. Director Saalfeld asked about the flooring at the clubhouse, and Mr. Ortiz said it is a warranty issue and the plan is to replace the flooring in the time between when golf closes and before Nordic operations open. He said it will be a different vinyl as the current has been discontinued.

13. BOARD MEMBER INPUT

- 13.1. Director Foley said he saw that the Vail Yeti hockey games will be starting up again in Nov. and asked if there could be a code of conduct instituted for the fans. Mr. Ortiz stated that the number of security personnel at the game will be expanded from two to six, and Director Newbury Rediker stated that the CSE has asked them to create a designated family-friendly zone.
- 13.2. Director Newbury Rediker stated that the CSE had 58 applications for event funding this year and a lot of them are related to using VRD facilities. She thanked Mr. Joel Rabinowitz for coming to the funding meetings and said his insight into the success and organization of past events was very valuable to the committee.
- 13.3. Director Saalfeld thanked Ms. Julie Rust of Vail Resorts for a recent meeting and for keeping open the lines of communications between Vail Resorts and the VRD.

14. ADJOURNMENT

- 14.1. 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