
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Of the Board of Directors

Vail Park and Recreation District dba Vail Recreation District November 14, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Vail Recreation District, Town of Vail, Eagle County, Colorado, was held on November 14, 2013 at 5 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. Jeff Wiles, Joe Hanlon and Billy Suarez
2. MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED
 - 2.1. Ken Wilson and Rick Sackbauer
3. STAFF PRESENT
 - 3.1. Mike Ortiz, Jamie Gunion
4. OTHERS PRESENT
 - 4.1. Markian Feduschak, Lara Carlson and Kim Langmaid with Walking Mountain Science Center (WMSC)
5. CONSULTANTS PRESENT
 - 5.1. Eric Weaver, Robertson & Marchetti, P.C.
6. CALL TO ORDER
 - 6.1. Director Hanlon called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.
7. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
 - 7.1. By motion duly made and seconded it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2013 Regular Meeting.
8. PUBLIC INPUT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
 - 8.1. None
9. PRESENTATION OF NATURE CENTER MANAGEMENT WITH WALKING MOUNTAINS SCIENCE SCHOOL

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- 9.1. Markian Feduschak, Lara Carlson and Kim Langmaid with Walking Mountains Science Center (WMSC) reviewed a management plan for operations of the Vail Nature Center starting in 2014.
- 9.2. Mr. Ortiz explained staff has met with Walking Mountains and current Vail Nature Center staff to discuss the facility and programs that are taking place and can take place. If a partnership is approved between WMSC and the VRD, the two groups are required to go through the Vail Town Council approval process. Mr. Ortiz explained the reception from the Town of Vail has been positive with an understanding that it remains a natural area.
- 9.3. Mr. Feduschak explained the Vail Nature Center and WMSC have been partnering on programs since 2003. He said WMSC's Nature Center management goals would include program expansion and eventual facility revitalization; highlighting the human and cultural history of the area as it relates to the ecology of the Vail Nature Center, emphasize the uniqueness of the facility and differentiate programming.
- 9.4. Ms. Carlson spoke about continued and new programs that could take place at the Nature Center. Continued programs would include wildflower walks, bird walks, beaver pond tours, stargazing, S'mores and More, guest speaker series, Camp Eco Fun lessons, the hiking programs, art in nature and photography classes and youth fly fishing. Ms. Carlson said the vision is not to change programming, but to take current programming and enhance and expand them. Future programming ideas include merging existing WMSC and Nature Center hiking programs, extending the stargazing season, creating family fly fishing workshops and stream ecology research programs, expanding options for art in nature courses and offer existing WMSC program models, such as adult science seminars. WMSC also would provide select winter programs and hours to include snowshoeing and adding facility hours that improve visibility throughout the year. Ms. Carlson reviewed the future vision WMSC including cleaning up interior and exterior of the facility, removal of invasive plants and replanting with native species, revitalizing and incorporating the garden area into programming and creating a master plan to redesign the interpretive displays and signage to connect visitors to Vail's since of "place."
- 9.5. Ms. Langmaid expressed her support for the partnership saying it will benefit the community through the existing and new programs. She is excited to bring WMSC expertise to the Nature Center.
- 9.6. Director Suarez questioned the need for additional funding.
 - 9.6.1. Ms. Carlson explained that WMSC has the expertise to bring to the table and future discussions will take place for budget considerations.
 - 9.6.2. Mr. Fudeschak echoed Ms. Carlson and said they have learned a lot through the process of building WMSC and both parties will need to sit down and plan for long-term needs. A contract is already in place with the

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Vail Nature Center and this is a broadening the contract and scope of programs.

- 9.6.3. Mr. Ortiz explained the VRD's subsidy of the program would decrease approximately \$25,000 with WMSC's management.
- 9.7. Director Wiles questioned marketing of the program.
 - 9.7.1. Mr. Ortiz clarified it will be a collaborative effort on marketing between WMSC and the VRD.
- 9.8. Director Wiles also asked about the future plans for an expanded garden.
 - 9.8.1. Ms. Carlson explained it would not be a community garden, but a garden to educate through WMSC programs.
- 9.9. Director Hanlon expressed his excitement for the partnership and agreed the Nature Center is a vital aspect of the community. He is looking forward to expansion of the programs with WMSC as a reputable partner within the valley.
- 9.10. Mr. Ortiz said a formal motion is not required at this time. The next step is Vail Town Council approval to move forward with a formal contract.

10. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF 2014 PROGRAM FEES

- 10.1. Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to table the review and adoption of the 2014 program fees agenda item to the Dec. 12 regularly scheduled board meeting.

11. CONTINUANCE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED 2014 BUDGET

- 11.1. Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to re-open the public hearing for the adoption of the 2014 proposed budget.
- 11.2. Mr. Weaver explained there were no major changes from the previous version of the budget. He explained the VRD's property tax collections have declined by approximately \$500,000 in 2012 and are expected to remain at this lower level for 2014 and 2015 as well.
- 11.3. Director Wiles questioned a need to look at a variety of opportunities to help the budget?
 - 11.3.1. Mr. Weaver explained the VRD would need to continue to review and research the need to decrease staff, increase fees and/or go before voters for an increase in the mill levy. Until a long-term solution is found the District will continue to have unfunded capital projects.
- 11.4. Director Suarez questioned raising fees?
 - 11.4.1. Mr. Weaver explained a minimal fee increase would make a small increase in the budget shortfall. There is room for discussion.
 - 11.4.2. Director Hanlon encouraged the board to review the program fees prior to the next meeting. He also encouraged the Vail Recreation Subcommittee reconvene to discuss capital needs at the facilities.

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- 11.4.3. Director Wiles also encouraged a review of sponsor/partner opportunities for facilities that could enhance the facilities.
- 11.4.4. Hearing no public comment, upon a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to close the public hearing for the adoption of the 2014 proposed budget.
- 11.4.5. Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED approve the resolution to adopt the 2014 budget as presented, to approve the resolution to certify the mill levy at 2.760 mills for operations and 0.334 mills for a special mill levy approved at the 2004 election, and to approve the resolution to appropriate funds for spending in 2013, all of which are subject to minor adjustments which may result from the final certification of assessed values.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- 12.1. Mr. Ortiz highlighted the following during the Executive Director Report:
 - 12.1.1. Irrigation, bunker sand, tree planting and a variety of work is completed on hole 18 and is wrapped up for the season. Work will resume in the spring.
 - 12.1.2. Additional snowfall is needed to open more terrain at the Nordic Center. A new loop has been created to accommodate work on the netting project. There were four U.S. Winter Olympic hopefuls training at the Nordic Center during the past few weeks.
 - 12.1.3. Vail Golf Club Director Alice Plain is working on a women's golf/yoga/wellness retreat program in June 2015. Additional details will be announced soon.
 - 12.1.4. The sports department will partner with the Town of Avon to time the Dunken Dash in 2015. The town's Commission on Special Events allocated \$35,300 to the KEEN Vail Kids Adventure Race, up from \$25,000 in 2013. This will be a three-day event, with an expo, additional sponsorships opportunities and more. Sports continues to work on a management program for the tournaments that are being relocated in 2013 due to Ford Park renovation work.
 - 12.1.5. Four of the top Division I Women's Ice Hockey Teams are in Vail this weekend, Nov. 15-16 to compete at Dobson Ice Arena. The Skating Club of Vail skating show is being planned for December holiday season with coaching by Dobson coaches who have a tremendous skating background.
 - 12.1.6. Community Programming Room will host an open house on Dec. 11 for concierge, ski school instructors and locals to learn more about the fitness and art programs.
 - 12.1.7. Gymnastics programs are strong. Researching an additional class for toddlers.

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- 12.1.8. Despite cold weather, the Trick or Treat Trot was a success on Halloween. Community Programming continues to look at different fitness opportunities.
- 12.1.9. Work at Ford Park is continuing. Concrete has been poured for walkways around the park to prepare for the winter season.
- 12.1.10. Vail Nature Center Director Tom Gaylord will retire this year leaving a legacy at the Nature Center. A retirement party will be hosted to recognize his achievements and years spent with the Nature Center. Details will be announced soon.

13. BOARD MEMBER INPUT

- 13.1. Director Suarez has spoke with a couple parents of Skating Club of Vail who have shared their appreciation of the expertise of the new coaches at Dobson.
- 13.2. Director Wiles shared that Vail Mountain opens on Nov. 22.
- 13.3. Director Hanlon expressed appreciation for Jerrica's (with Community Programming) work on the Trick or Treat Trot. He also welcomed the Division I hockey teams competing in Vail this weekend. He acknowledged the Battle Mountain High School Cross Country team who are taking 23 team members to a race in Arizona.
 - 13.3.1. Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to sponsor the BMHS Cross Country Team with \$2,000 for travel and expenses to the Arizona cross country meet.
 - 13.3.2. Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve \$2,014 to assist Vail-local Sylvan Ellefson in his efforts to make the 2014 U.S. Winter Olympic Team.

14. ADJOURNAMENT

- 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,

Jamie Gunion
Secretary to the Meeting