
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Of the Board of Directors

Vail Park and Recreation District dba Vail Recreation District July 12, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Vail Recreation District, Town of Vail, Eagle County, Colorado, was held on July 12, 2012, 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. Joe Hanlon, Rick Sackbauer, Bill Suarez and Jeff Wiles
2. MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED
 - 2.1. Ken Wilson
3. STAFF PRESENT
 - 3.1. Mike Ortiz, Jamie Gunion, Alice Plain
4. OTHERS PRESENT
 - 4.1. Peter Cook, Phil Weinstein, Gene Henry, Paul Sideman, Alan Togan, Deborah Webster, Carol Cook, Gail Malloy and several members of the community.
5. CONSULTANTS PRESENT
 - 5.1. Eric Weaver, Robertson & Marchetti, P.C.
6. CALL TO ORDER
 - 6.1. Director Hanlon called the meeting to order.
7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - 7.1. By motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2012 Regular Board meeting as presented.
8. PUBLIC INPUT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
 - 8.1. None
9. VAIL GOLF CLUB GUEST SURVEY REPORT FOR JUNE
 - 9.1. Jamie Gunion and Alice Plain gave a recap of the Vail Golf Club guest survey report.

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- 9.2. Ms. Gunion explained the surveys are underway through September. Today's report was for June only. She also explained the report says "unresolved" issues, many of which have been resolved.
- 9.3. Ms. Plain commented she was excited to move forward with the surveys and able to solicit comments and feedback. Ms. Plain said the response has been good. She has been calling and emailing those who have had issues.
- 9.4. Mr. Wiles questioned what the number one item that people are having issues with.
- 9.4.1. Ms. Plain said the Pace of Play program has been a challenge for many. In general most people are happy with the program, but several commented about communication from the rangers. Otherwise, the survey results have showed high marks in most areas. Ms. Plain is sharing comments with Happy Valley Grill as well. The survey has been a great benchmark for the summer and looking for ways for improvement.
- 9.4.2. Ms. Gunion explained the guest survey is different from the pass holder/punch card holder survey that will take place in the fall.
- 9.4.3. Mr. Sackbauer requested information on the randomness of the survey and how people receive the survey.
- 9.4.3.1. Ms. Plain said the staff is gathering emails and then the survey is being sent. Pass holders that play every week will not receive a survey every week.
- 9.4.4. Mr. Sackbauer asked for a response rate of those being sent and those being filled out.
- 9.4.4.1. Ms. Gunion will work with the survey data collector to get this information.
- 9.5. Director Hanlon shared that the survey is a great idea to gauge comments and be able to respond to those with issues.
- 9.6. Director Hanlon requested public comment.
- 9.6.1. Peter Cook said the survey is a great idea. He requested seeing the response difference between local and guest play. He also requested the information at the end-of-season be presented on the web and shared with the public.
- 9.6.2. Ms. Gunion explained that it should be possible to break the survey out and that it is being done by a third-party vendor.
- 9.7. Phil Weinstein questioned what expectations are going to be derived from the survey. He suggested rewording the survey so it applies to standards in the industry and customer satisfaction.
- 9.7.1. Ms. Plain said the survey allows staff to review expectations, comments and make improvements.
- 9.7.2. Ms. Gunion also explained the Vail Golf Club is one of the only golf courses providing the survey so it isn't possible to compare with other courses in the valley.

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10. REVIEW OF RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING REGARDING 18TH HOLE AT THE VAIL GOLF CLUB

10.1. Mr. Mike Ortiz provided a recap of where the VRD and Town of Vail are in the process regarding the Vail Golf Course Clubhouse Remodel and 18th hole realignment. There are now three options that will be reviewed during the Vail Town Council's July 17 meeting including moving forward with Concept D, moving forward with a new concept, Concept F and not moving forward.

10.1.1. Mr. Ortiz explained Concept F where a new back tee will be built to next to the 17th hole turnaround with a carry of 185 yards. The existing tees will be shaved down and lowered and will be close to the elevation of the current cart path. Some bunkers will be realigned and replaced. The new realigned 18th hole proposal Concept F would sit 60 yards west of Concept D. The space where the number 18th hole is currently located would be considered "green space," and has not been appropriated for anything.

10.1.2. Director Hanlon clarified that Concept D is the approved plan from the March meeting.

10.1.3. Mr. Ortiz said a baffled net system is being proposed with a height of 130 feet, with increasing the height gradually with three baffles. These would help address safety concerns with the proposed area of the 18th green. The hole would measure about 515 yards and the board will discuss whether it will be a Par 4 or Par 5. If it is a Par 4, the VRD Board will look to creating hole 13 as a Par 5 to make the course a Par 71.

10.2. Director Hanlon called for public input.

10.2.1. Gene Henry shared that Jeff Wiles presented the new Concept F at Men's League. He said it was very creative and it solved many issues including the clubhouse expansion, as well as a nice closing hole. He commented that he appreciated the VRD and Town had listened to the comments the public have provided. The new compromise is a win-win and allows a new clubhouse to be built.

10.2.2. Paul Sideman explained he is in favor of keeping the hole a Par 5 and has concerns regarding safety issues. He encouraged the need for a patio on the clubhouse that would allow golfers to watch other golfers come in. He questioned whether there is a need for a "convention center" at the golf course and would it be supported. He questioned whether the location is in a proper area to be supported.

10.2.3. Alan Togan questioned the area of green space that is west of the 18th green and plans for development of the area. He said this is a golf course and is concerned about events taking place on the green space area.

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- 10.2.3.1. Mr. Ortiz explained there is no parking proposed in that area. The Vail Town Council will define what the green space area will be. While it is a golf course, the proposed remodel is a community building and currently hosts Nordic as well events.
- 10.2.3.2. Director Suarez explained they are looking at uses for the green space but it has yet to be dedicated to a function.
- 10.2.4. Peter Cook addressed the Board and said the new Concept F is a huge improvement over the past revisions. He suggested that a Par 4 or Par 5 shouldn't matter, but what matters is making the facility a better place. He also said that the facility will not be a convention center and by working with the Town Council on the uses, it will enhance the VRD's budget and help attract people to golf and other activities in town. It is a small venue and encouraged the board and Town to look at what is the best facility that can be built to accommodate the summer and winter needs.
- 10.2.5. Steven Collins stated he believes the golf course doesn't need to be any shorter than it is now. He questioned how much money the VRD is paying for the renovation and how much money the VRD plans to make off special events.
- 10.2.5.1. Mr. Ortiz said the VRD has pledge to put \$1 million into the project. The VRD is anticipating about 60 events year-round and conservatively a budget of over \$100,000 in revenue from special events in the facility.
- 10.2.6. Phil Weinstein applauded the efforts of the VRD Board and Town for working through the process. He encouraged the board to continue to look at the golf course as a major entity and what is needed to improve the course.
- 10.2.7. Carol Cook explained the situation is not about golf, but about having an event venue. She expressed surprise that the VRD Board is predicting 60 events at the Vail Golf Club and that there is a real opportunity for more events and revenue with an events center.
- 10.2.8. Mr. Ortiz clarified it will be a remodeled clubhouse and not an event center. Currently there are events taking place there and will continue to do so. Mr. Ortiz explained also that in the current facility when an event is booked, golfers cannot dine or eat in the facility. In the proposed concept for the design of the remodel, there will be a separate restaurant and patio area for golfers. The current conceptual design includes 40 indoor seats and 20 outdoor seats in the golf restaurant grill area.
- 10.2.9. Deborah Webster questioned the baffled net system. Mr. Ortiz explained that when the VRD went through the ball analysis safety study, the golf ball peaks at 185 yards and 120 feet in the air. Instead of raising the entire net to 130 feet high, the baffled system could offset and overlap each other so that the ball does not go over the net to address the safety issues.
- 10.2.10. Ms. Webster also questioned the seating on the lawn.

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- 10.2.10.1. Mr. Ortiz also explained that the Vail Town Council has listened to the neighbors and understands the concerns about the event lawn and permanent tenting. These decisions still need to be made. All the rules that apply to the Town of Vail will apply to the remodeled clubhouse including noise regulations.
- 10.2.11. Ms. Webster said as a non-golfer that the VRD looks to have done some excellent work for the golf course, but questioned the patio design. She reminded everyone that it is a residential area and neighbors have concerns about noise and property values if there are over 60 events taking place.
- 10.2.12. An attorney representing residents adjacent to the golf course spoke. He explained the residents appreciate the efforts that are being done. He requested the VRD continue to hear the concerns of the residents. He said he felt it is unclear that where the project is ending. He questioned whether it is a remodel to duplicate Donovan Pavilion, which would have impacts on the adjacent property owners. Concerns were also raised about traffic and noise.
- 10.3. Director Hanlon requested board member input.
- 10.3.1. Director Wiles explained that he shared the new concept with the Men's League members. For the most part, everyone was in support and could see compromise and concessions to meet the public's concern. There were comments from one end of the spectrum to the other with both support and concerns. From his perspective he feels good about the direction the VRD and Vail Town Council are heading.
- 10.3.2. Director Suarez said it seems the response the VRD is receiving from the public is being addressed as best feasible and the VRD and Vail Town Council are working to compromise and move forward. The VRD Board does not want to raise rates or eliminate services with the decline in property tax collections and the remodel is an opportunity for revenue generation.
- 10.3.3. Director Sackbauer clarified the VRD's \$1 million contribution has always included a new golf hole, but does not include additional costs for the baffled netting system. Going back to 2010, he said the 18th hole concept was there but the costs of the netting system was a hurdle that didn't allow the VRD to move forward. The VRD is working to bring vibrancy back to the clubhouse grill. He said he prefers to see the 18th hole as a Par 4 and 13 as a Par 5 in the future. Director Sackbauer explained until the VRD receives a revenue stream, other items in the master plan are a wish list of items. If having to choose between new golf course improvements or having after school or gymnastics program, he will choose gymnastics and an after school program. The VRD has an ROI on revenues, but he cautioned that moving forward with the master plan will not happen until property tax collections increase or the VRD looks for other options. Sackbauer expressed his likes for concept D because it moves the events closer to the building and further away from the neighbors, but is in support of the new

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option. He encouraged the VRD to ask the Vail Town Council to contribute funds for the 13th hole, as well as the “19th hole” concept. Both will allow the VRD flexibility to always have 18 holes to be available for guests. Director Sackbauer explained the 19th hole would allow the VRD to work on a specific hole while maintaining 18 holes.

10.3.4. Director Hanlon then read a letter on behalf of Director Wilson, which stated his support of the new concept, moving forward and providing a great experience.

10.3.5. Director Hanlon expressed that the golf course architect did a great job with working on modifying necessary changes and safety concerns. He stated his agreement with the rest of the board.

10.3.6. Director Wiles questioned the Aug. 6 construction date for realignment of the 18th hole.

10.3.6.1. Mr. Ortiz explained that if the new proposed concept is approved by the Vail Town Council, the needed documents and processes are not ready which would mean the 18th hole realignment wouldn't take place until next fall. If the Vail Town Council approves concept D, the process could take place this fall. The decision can't be made until after the July 17 Vail Town Council meeting.

10.3.7. Director Suarez also questioned the initial drawings for patio. Mr. Ortiz explained the patio has been expanded and has not been approved, it is conceptual.

10.3.8. Director Sackbauer expressed concerns that if the VRD cannot move forward with the 19th hole, there will be only 17 holes available next year. He encouraged the community request this process as it could be accomplished in the spring.

10.3.9. Peter Cook additionally commented and encouraged the VRD to continue looking at hole 13. Director Sackbauer explained that hole 13 could be complicated because of its location near the Gore Creek and other technicalities, including permitting.

10.3.10. Mr. Ortiz explained the recreation subcommittee is recommending the plan to the Vail Town Council for its July 17.

10.3.11. Gail Malloy asked what would happen if the community room is not part of the remodel.

10.3.11.1. Director Sackbauer suggested asking that question to the Vail Town Council. He also explained again that the VRD will lose \$750,000 annually due to a decrease in property tax collections. The VRD will have to look towards other revenue opportunities if the remodel does not take place.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INPUT

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11.1. Mr. Ortiz explained that the Lacrosse Tournament was very successful and lasted over a three week period. There were over 100 teams participating with over 16 people on a lacrosse team. The VRD staff worked hard to prepare the fields for the tournament. The turf does get torn up but staff is working on hard to repair it for the Vail Valley Soccer Invitational and Kick it 3v3.

11.2. Mr. Scott Todd explained to the board about watering of the golf course. The golf course has voluntarily cut back watering on the course to prep it for drought conditions that were being experienced and are forecasted for the summer. They also cutback on irrigation to avoid having areas that are over irrigated. They are irrigating on a rotation and includes cutback on the roughs and perimeter areas. Other areas including the fairways and greens are irrigated more often, but crews continue to water every third to fourth night to prepare the areas for the drought conditions so the turf and areas will respond.

11.2.1. Director Sackbauer questioned the localization of the rainfalls, as well as water supply of the ponds.

11.2.1.1. Mr. Todd explained the golf course went from May 23 to July 4 before the golf course received rain. When the course did receive the rain, it was very helpful. Certain areas received about an inch and half of rain from July 4 through July 8. Mr. Todd explained it is important to note that with the rain received last week, the drought continues and Stage II fire restrictions continue. The Gore Creek flows prior to the rain were down to the upper 30s cfs. When the rains came, the Creek eventually did rise to 80s, but as of today the creek is back down to the 30s cfs.

11.2.1.2. Mr. Todd said they are continuing to keep the ponds as full as feasible in preparation for a wildfire situation. The VRD is filling the ponds on two and eight with the irrigation system within the VRD's water rights. They tend to lose water each day due to seeping within the water table. The big pond will continue to be able to keep full as long as the VRD can continue to utilize water from the Gore Creek. The VRD will continue to fill two and eight until the pond on 17 cannot be filled and then there will have to be a reduction.

11.2.2. Gail Malloy questioned what the VRD Board's recommendation will be to the town regarding the concept.

11.2.2.1. Director Hanlon explained that should the Council move forward it will be revised concept F, the newest proposal. Mr. Ortiz explained the recreation subcommittee is recommending the newest proposal for the council meeting and the VRD can support the recommendation.

12. BOARD MEMBER INPUT

12.1. Director Wilson said the Vail HillClimb had over 400 participants and over 300 spectators utilized the gondola to see the finish. It was an awesome race. Last

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night the Vail Grind mountain bike race took place on Vail Mountain. He gave kudos to Vail Resorts for their help with the events that take place.

- 12.1.1. Mr. Ortiz thanked several members of Vail Resorts and thanked them for their partnership, especially the summer mountain crew, led by Julie Rust.
- 12.2. Director Sackbauer is pleased with the energy that has gone into the new plan and grateful for the rain that fell. He also said the town has amended the paid parking plan at Ford Park. You now only pay once and can come back and park, if space is available.
- 12.3. Director Hanlon said the fields look great. He played golf with a couple who received a lesson and were pleased with their experience. He also thanked Director Suarez for his assistance in working on the paid parking plan at Ford Park. He thanked Director Wiles for sharing the plans with the Men's Club regarding the golf clubhouse redesign.

13. ADJOURNAMENT

- 13.1. 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