
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Of the Board of Directors

Vail Park and Recreation District dba Vail Recreation District April 11, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Vail Recreation District, Town of Vail, Eagle County, Colorado, was held on April 11, 2013 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. Jeff Wiles, Ken Wilson, Joe Hanlon, Rick Sackbauer and Billy Suarez
2. MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED
 - 2.1. none
3. STAFF PRESENT
 - 3.1. Mike Ortiz, Scott Todd, Alice Plain, Kelly Paton
4. OTHERS PRESENT
 - 4.1. None
5. CONSULTANTS PRESENT
 - 5.1. Eric Weaver, Robertson & Marchetti, P.C.
6. CALL TO ORDER
 - 6.1. Director Hanlon called the meeting to order. 5:08 p.m.
7. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
 - 7.1. By motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2013 Regular Meeting, subject to adding in that five time All-American Erica Jent should be added to the list of noted athletes.
8. PUBLIC INPUT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
 - 8.1. None
9. REVIEW OF DRIVING RANGE MAT PROJECT
 - 9.1. A permanent driving range mat along the back of the range is being considered for installation to address safety concerns from golf balls being hit over the net as a result of the changes in equipment since the net was originally installed.

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- 9.2. Mr. Scott Todd and Ms. Plain reviewed the major pros and cons of the driving mat range project as presented in the meeting packet:
 - 9.3. The pro's center around of course improvements in safety, ability to hit drivers all of the time, less wear on the remaining natural turf, and more availability as there are no frost or other times of inability to access.
 - 9.4. The con's center around the difference between natural and artificial turf and the associated dislike of artificial turf by many golfers as well as those giving and receiving lessons, lost driving range revenues, and decreased space available for youth programs that are currently held at the back of the range.
 - 9.5. The installation being considered would be permanent, as opposed to the moveable trays that were sampled last year but were not found to be satisfactory and were still very difficult to move on a regular basis.
 - 9.6. Staff addressed several questions and concerns from the Board, again reiterating that the installation would be made to address safety issues and efforts would be made to minimize the negative impacts on the golfers, including allowing irons only on natural turf at certain designated days and/or times. Other potential solutions including a marshal to monitor the range and restricted flight golf balls have been evaluated but found to not be effective and/or a good fit for the Vail Golf Club.
 - 9.7. Director Wilson also added that he feels language should be added to register receipts or at the ball machine to inform the user that they are responsible for the results of their ball if hit outside of the range net.
10. VAIL RECREATION DISTRICT FINANCIAL FUTURE AND OPTIONS
- 10.1. Mr. Eric Weaver discussed the financial future of the VRD in light of past and further anticipated declines in assessed property values.
 - 10.2. Operating expense have been cut back wherever possible without decreasing programming thus far but further cuts will not be possible without programming decreases or even elimination. The overall declines in property taxes will result in \$750,000 of lost revenue per year.
 - 10.3. The District does not feel that user fee increases alone can make up this shortfall because many of the users fees are competitive with other programs offered. Therefore, the District is primarily looking at cutting of programs, leaving capital and maintenance needs unfunded, or asking the voters for an increase in the property tax mill levy.
 - 10.4. Mr. Weaver clarified this shortage is not related to major construction, re-doing of facilities, etc. The majority of the funds are needed for general maintenance and upkeep of facilities and programming, largely based on the Borne Engineering study of required maintenance needs. The projects include updating of aging facilities like Dobson, maintaining installations at youth services, maintaining the Gymnastics Center, maintenance of Nature Center trails, keeping the new parks building up to date, tennis court and building maintenance, equipment replacements, remodeling the starter building on the

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golf course, cart path maintenance, creek restoration, and many routine enhancements called for in the golf course master plan. It will greatly affect normal business and maintenance of facilities. He did note he did not include the costs associated with the major realignment of three holes on the golf course, as laid out in the master plan.

10.5. Mr. Weaver stated that a second issue he is finding is that there is still a backlog of projects, meaning that more funds are needed in the early years to address current needs, which makes a bond issue an appealing idea, but the district is also looking at a continual decline over a number of years. We are still evaluating what the best course of action is. Also, by asking the voters for the ability to issue debt, the current Dobson Bonds could also be refunded, resulting in a potential 50% decrease over the current interest rate being paid on that debt.

10.6. Mr. Ortiz stated a good example to look at is Dobson – it's an aging facility and if the improvements get pushed down the line because there is no funding they become safety issues and unfixable problems. It's important to figure out how to get the funding up front and to take care of maintenance from there.

10.7. Mr. Weaver reviewed a timeline for a November 2013 election and concluded the presentation with estimated costs to be in a consultant to assist the District with reaching out to the community to determine the desires of the community and educate them about the financial issues the District is facing.

10.7.1. The Board agreed that additional support is needed at the point to determine the gain community input and determine the best long-term financial solution for the District which may include a combination of the solutions presented; programming/staff cuts, fee increase, deferring capital needs, tax increase and potentially a bond issue.

10.8. Upon a motion duly mad and seconded it was unanimously APPROVED to move forward with engaging consultants to assist the District with community outreach to determine the desires of the community and the best funding mechanisms to attain sustain the maintenance and the operations of the Vail Rec District programs and facilities.

10.8.1. Director Wilson asked whether they needed to include in the motion that they would allocate the funding for the project, to which Mr. Weaver responded that the estimated \$20,000 cost would come out of the operations contingency budget..

10.8.2. Mr. Weaver clarified this would fall within the \$100,000 allocated to contingencies. Upon a motion duly mad and seconded it was unanimously APPROVED to allocate \$20,000 of the contingency budget towards community outreach.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INPUT

11.1. Mr. Ortiz invited Ms. Plain to discuss the status of the First Tee Program.

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- 11.1.1. Ms. Plain stated that the Youth Foundation will unfortunately be handing over the First Tee program to the Denver chapter. She went to Denver to meet with their staff two weeks ago to address her concerns about having an outside chapter manage the program. After meeting with the representatives she feels that the program will still be very beneficial to both youth and the District and under the larger structure although some aspects will be lost, many others will be gained such as better training of the interns that teach the children and more administrative support.
- 11.1.2. Director Wilson noted that as original board member of the program he was disappointed to see that VVF/Youth Foundation dropped the program. Lots of people in the community feel the same way. There is some fence mending necessary for the program to continue to be successful in this community. There are fears the program is short-lived because, for the Denver chapter, it will be tough to maintain financially. He is, however, appreciative of the Denver chapter for taking on the challenge and supports moving forward as recommended.
- 11.2. Mr. Ortiz pointed out the VRD does have its own junior programs operated by the VRD, so if First Tee goes away the District won't be starting from scratch.
- 11.3. Mr. Ortiz moved on to discuss the question about nine-hole play at the Vail Golf Club. The question was whether allowing people to play nine all day or only allow full rounds during the day.
- 11.3.1. Based on research, Ms. Plain showed that nine-hole rounds are a small percentage of the overall rounds and added that those rounds support the revenues of the pro shop.
- 11.3.2. Director Wilson clarified the discussion was not about whether to allow nine-hole play in total; the question is are there options to consider, such as sending them off of the back nine in the mornings?
- 11.3.3. Ms. Plain responded that we have looked at this in the past and between the additional maintenance costs for additional machinery and labor as well as the limited gain in rounds this was not financially feasible.
- 11.3.4. Ms. Plain's recommendation would be to not limit nine-hole play at certain times, however she agreed that those only playing 9 holes need to be held to the same pace of play standards as those playing a full 18 holes.
12. BOARD MEMBER INPUT
- 12.1. Director Sackbauer said it was great to see the snow go off the course last week for the golfers but it was also great for the water to see it snowing this week. He thanked Mr. Todd for the input that it's a priority to get a mini loop open ASAP.
- 12.2. Mr. Ortiz wanted to remind everyone the Town had plowed the bike path and people will want to bike. Please be aware in case people ask.
- 12.3. Director Wiles thanked the VRD and Dobson crew for the ski school and patrol hockey game. It was a good time for all and raised money for ski patroller who broke his leg.

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12.4. Director Suarez wanted to note the changes in Ford Park. He thinks they will be amazing and people will be really happy. Great job, nice to see it progressing.

12.5. Mr. Ortiz pointed out the VRD will try, as weather permits, to get as many tennis courts as soon as possible, however it is going to take a little more time this year due to all of the construction which will require reconnecting a number of the water lines that feed the clay courts. The courts should be open by the end of May and the concession building will open in early June.

12.6. Director Hanlon thanked the “lifites” and our friends at Vail; it’s great to be in a great place like this. Thanks to Chris Jarnot and crew. Looking forward to another great season.

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