

VAIL PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
d/b/a VAIL RECREATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5:00 P.M.
Thursday, September 25, 2014
Town of Vail, Council Chambers
AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 11, 2014
3. Public Input of Items not on the Agenda
4. Introduction to Vail Mountaineer Hockey Club-Mr. Rick Beverage
5. Review of Information in Setting a Hard Closing Date at the Vail Golf Club-
Ms. Alice Plain & Mr. Scott Todd
6. Review of Vail Golf and Nordic Center Programming 2012 Documents-Mr.
Scott O'Connell
7. Review of Golf Club Operations Plan-Mr. Mike Ortiz
8. Renewal of Gymnastic Lease-Mr. Mike Ortiz
9. August 2014 Financial Report – Mr. Eric Weaver
10. Approval of Marchetti & Weaver Engagement Letter-Mr. Eric Weaver
11. Executive Director Input
12. Board Member Input
13. Adjournment

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Of the Board of Directors

Vail Park and Recreation District dba Vail Recreation District September 11, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Vail Recreation District, Town of Vail, Eagle County, Colorado, was held on September 11, 2014 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. Kim Newbury, Tom Saalfeld, Jeff Wiles, Kevin Foley, Bill Suarez
2. MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED
 - 2.1. None
3. STAFF PRESENT
 - 3.1. Mike Ortiz, Scott O'Connell
4. OTHERS PRESENT
 - 4.1. Dale Bugby, Vail Town Council
5. CONSULTANTS PRESENT
 - 5.1. None
6. CALL TO ORDER
 - 6.1. Director Wiles called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
7. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
 - 7.1. By motion duly made and seconded it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2014 meeting.
8. PUBLIC INPUT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
 - 8.1. None
9. UPDATE ON VAIL GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE
 - 9.1. Mr. Ortiz requested the VRD Board mark their calendars for 1 p.m. joint work session with the Vail Town Council on Sept. 16. There is also a subcommittee meeting taking place earlier that morning.

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10. UPDATE ON DISC GOLF COURSE IN EAST VAIL

10.1. Mr. O'Connell provided an update to the board on the progression of installing a disc golf course in East Vail.

10.1.1. Staff has met with a disc golf course designer who, following a tour of the proposed area in East Vail, saw conceptual designs as a workable area for a course. The designer felt the area could be world class and draw participants and tournaments from not only Colorado, but nationwide.

10.1.2. Staff also met with Town of Vail staff to discuss the disc course in the proposed area. The town is currently evaluating the area with challenges discussed to include conflicts with cyclists, pedestrians and potential disc golfers who could use the existing trail system in the area. Challenges also include discussions with the US Forest Service adjacent to the town-owned property, clearly defining areas that may conflict within wetlands in the area and noxious weed abatement.

10.2. Director Wiles questioned who would be responsible for interaction with the Forest Service.

10.2.1. Mr. O'Connell said the VRD would most likely be the first point of contact. However, the town would need to be involved in the process as the land owner. It could be years should there be a need to involve the Forest Service.

10.3. Director Saalfeld questioned wetland impacts. Mr. O'Connell explained there are wetlands in the area and staff would need to consider these impacts during the design to protect such areas.

10.4. Director Foley explained the topic will be brought to the recreation subcommittee on Sept. 16.

10.5. Director Wiles questioned costs. Mr. O'Connell explained there are preliminary costs identified for equipment needs such as tee markers, baskets, etc.

10.6. Mr. Ortiz said there will be a process to include opportunities for community discussion and input, continued discussions with the town and other information to be shared.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INPUT

11.1. Mr. Ortiz shared the following from the Directors Report:

11.1.1. Sunday and Monday the golf course received 1.4 inches of rain. The fairways will be aerified in September. Mr. Ortiz requested clarification from the board regarding a closing date for the golf course. It's important to allow time for staff to put the correct applications to protect the course for winter.

11.1.1.1. Director Saalfeld requested pros and cons for staying open or closed to include labor costs, rounds played, course conditions, previous closing days, etc.

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- 11.1.1.2. Director Suarez is in favor of a solid closing date for the course, but requested these dates be determined for 2015 and not 2014. He said the majority of those playing in the late season are pass holders.
- 11.1.1.3. Director Newbury questioned how information is shared for closing the course.
- 11.1.1.3.1. Mr. Ortiz explained staff works to provide a week of notice prior to closing.
- 11.1.1.4. Director Wiles questioned if the decision should be made by Scott Todd, Golf Course Superintendent.
- 11.1.1.4.1. Mr. Ortiz explained there have been solid closing dates and flexible closing dates that are determined with golf maintenance staff.
- 11.1.1.5. Mr. Ortiz will provide the board with data to determine a closing date.
- 11.1.2. Mr. Ortiz asked the board to mark their calendars for a tournament on Thursday, Oct. 2 at the Vail Golf Course to benefit the Tom Slaughter, Jr. Scholarship Grant Program. The VRD uses the grant program to provide funding for children who cannot afford VRD programs. The goal is to have 18 teams play, including sponsorships and auction items. This is a joint effort with the Vail Chamber & Business Association.
- 11.1.3. Mr. Ortiz shared the Sports Department is working with local organizations including donation of staff time for timing of the Wild West Days fun run, Battle Mountain High School's citizen run and BHMS' Zombie Run.
- 11.1.3.1. Director Wiles requested the VRD share amounts for staff hours and dollars the VRD donates to assist local charities and non-profits.
- 11.1.4. The Kids Adventure Games had a 58 percent increase in race participants over 2013 and over 600 percent increase since 2010. There were 366 teams and 732 participants. Nearly 3,000 racers and their families came for the event. 51 percent of the participants were local and statewide with the remaining either nationwide or international.
- 11.1.5. Vail Gymnastics Center hosted a BBQ and Carwash event to raise money for a new balance beam.
- 11.1.5.1. Director Saalfeld encouraged the team to seek out a more visible location for the car wash in the future.
- 11.1.6. Community Programming continues to work with the town to research building a skatepark in the atrium of the Lionshead parking structure.
- 11.1.7. A homeowner adjacent to the fourth hole at the golf course is utilizing the area for work taking place. The VRD has an agreement with the owners should any damages occur.
- 11.1.8. Director Newbury questioned decisions about the hole eight gas line. Mr. Ortiz said no decisions have been made at this time.

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- 11.1.9. Director Foley mentioned Dobson Ice Arena hosted National Hockey League professional players for their annual training camp. There were more than 21 professional players in Vail as part of the training camp. Director Foley questioned if there are opportunities to work with the youth programs.
- 11.1.9.1. Mr. Ortiz said the camps are not typically open to the public but discussions are being held regarding incorporation into the community.

12. BOARD MEMBER INPUT

- 12.1. Director Wiles asked for other topics for the recreation subcommittee meeting.
 - 12.1.1. Director Foley requested parking at Ford Park.
 - 12.1.2. Director Suarez requested signage at Ford Park.
- 12.2. Director Saalfeld questioned the condition of the clubhouse during the winter.
 - 12.2.1. Mr. O'Connell explained there are issues with the roofing and leaks. Staff works with the town on the issues and patching work that needs to occur. Shoveling takes place when snow levels exceed a safe amount.
- 12.3. Director Saalfeld shared he has spoken with staff about working with a different gas provider that could result in savings for the VRD.
- 12.4. Director Foley played in the club championships and enjoyed the competition. He complimented the staff for putting together a great tournament.
 - 12.4.1. Mr. Ortiz echoed the compliments and commented on the progression of the Vail Golf Club's internship program. Many of the professional staff were interns at the club in the past and are now returning year after year.
- 12.5. Director Suarez thanked the pickleball community for speaking to the board at the last meeting. He spoke with the organizer of the King of the Mountain Volleyball tournament who may come speak with the board about installation of two additional sand volleyball courts.
 - 12.5.1. Mr. Ortiz explained currently there isn't a need for additional courts for recreational play, but understands the tournament organizer's wish for more courts for the annual tournament.
- 12.6. Director Suarez questioned flipping the chipping and putting area.
 - 12.6.1. Mr. Ortiz explained the turf is not ready for a switch.
- 12.7. Mr. Ortiz also shared the Vail International Hockey Association will come and meet with the board at an upcoming board meeting.
- 12.8. Director Wiles shared that in a recent walk around Ford Park he met with several of the landscapers. Ford Park is coming along and when compared to what it was, it is looking world class. The final running race of the season is Sunday, Sept. 14, the EverGold. He encouraged the board review the driving range and whether there is a need to renovate the turf at the club. It is a large revenue driver.
 - 12.8.1. Mr. Ortiz explained there is a budget for renovation of the driving range. Currently it has been on hold as during the process for the remodel of the clubhouse.

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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

MEMO

Date: September 22, 2014
To: Vail Recreation District, Board of Directors
From: Michael Ortiz, Executive Director - Vail Recreation District
Subject: Hard Closing Date for Vail Golf Club

The Vail Recreation District Board of Directors at their September 11, 2014 meeting directed staff to compile information which would help them to decide when the Vail Golf Club should be closed each year. In the past eight years the VGC has not operated with a hard closing date but rather, has tried to keep the course open as long as weather permits. The current VRD Board is trying to surmise the economic viability of such a decision.

To aid in this review staff has included a document, "October Sales History". This document includes an October Total Report as well as an October Sales per Week report for the years 2009-2013. In her brief explanation of these reports, Alice Plain (Director of Golf) explains that staff payroll costs for the month of October total approximately \$10,000. Also, included is a payroll report for Golf Maintenance and a memo from Superintendent, Scott Todd.

Staff recommendation for closure of the Vail Golf Club is October 26, 2014. Staff would also like to suggest that if the weather forecast for the week before October 26th becomes adverse that the course could be closed then. Going forward, staff believes that closing at the beginning of the last week in October would be advantageous to the operations and maintenance of the course.

MEMO

FROM: Scott Todd, Superintendent, VGC

TO: Mike Ortiz

Date: 9/19/14

Mike,

I wanted to follow up with you on the subject of considering a specific closing date for the golf course, after our discussion on the topic earlier today.

From a financial stand-point, we will utilize the same number of staff in the last two weeks of October to “put the course to bed” for the winter, regardless of whether we are open or not. However, if we are open to play, the efficiency of our staff to complete critical tasks becomes greatly affected, and thus we are paying extra dollars simply because it takes longer to accomplish our goals. In the course of these last two weeks, especially with nice weather, we could easily lose the equivalent of 2-3 days having to wait on and coordinate our activities with golf. Due to that fact, we could theoretically lay off seasonal staff sooner if the course was closed. Furthermore, as we experience long frost delays in October, work days are already short as it is.

As I have stated many times in the past, the key to a successful season for our course, or any mountain course at our elevation, is to get off to a good start in the spring with healthy turf. Turf damaged by the effects of winter takes a very long time to heal the following spring and summer, whether we see an early April snow melt, or a mid-May snow melt. Listed below are many of the tasks that occur in the last two weeks of October, all critical to the health of the course in the spring:

- Dormant turf fertilizer applications (Ammonium sulfate) to the entire golf course, including greens.
- Final snow mold fungicide applications to the entire course, including greens.
- Sand topdress application to the greens. This final application before snow helps to protect the crowns of the turf plants before permanent snow cover, and in the spring following melt-off and prior to us placing covers on them.
- Over-seed fairways with ryegrass, if not completed in early October due to inclement weather.
- Rope off greens to keep Nordic skiers, wildlife off of them over the winter.
- Water greens with truck and tank. This has been necessary two of the last three years, as we blow out the irrigation in the first week of October. It's extremely critical for the health of the Poa annua to keep moisture levels adequate, and very time consuming on a per green basis.
- Apply bait to areas of vole activity. Vole damage is likely to be high next spring, as we have witnessed much greater activity on the course this summer than the past two summers.
- Staking, laying out course for Nordic ski and snow shoe trails.

In conclusion, because our greens are *Poa annua* turf, any additional traffic on them after they cease growing can be considered damaging, or at the least, activity setting back their ability to come out of winter healthy. As evidenced by the desiccation and ice damage incurred the past three winters on the greens, I think everyone can agree with the agronomic fact that *Poa annua* is a weak turf species in general, and specifically, when it comes to cold, dry conditions and its lack of winter hardiness. While keeping golfers off of our greens in the fall does not guarantee health in the spring, I can guarantee that there are no benefits to allowing traffic on them in late October, other than the satisfaction of a handful of golfers. Should it be decided that we will not close the course, I would strongly recommend that we at least prohibit play to the greens, and play to temporary greens located in the approaches.

Let me know if you have any questions, and thanks for your consideration of these points.

Scott

**Vail Recreation District
Golf Maintenance Payroll**

| Month of October | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | \$4,921.00 | \$7,128.85 | \$7,474.25 | \$9,274.00 |
| | \$13,004.65 | \$18,170.54 | \$16,557.62 | \$15,070.11 |
| | \$11,128.00 | \$10,484.88 | \$7,027.30 | \$5,732.82 |
| Total Gross Payroll | \$29,053.65 | \$35,784.27 | \$31,059.17 | \$30,076.93 |

| October Sales | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Sales for Month | \$29,547.82 | \$20,025.36 | \$37,620.67 | \$46,213.87 | \$23,785.08 |
| Golf Course Revenue | \$24,735.10 | \$15,969.98 | \$27,723.35 | \$33,827.46 | \$17,170.84 |
| Merchandise Sales | \$10,681.23 | \$6,527.48 | \$10,909.65 | \$10,401.44 | \$8,478.79 |
| | | | | | |
| Closing Day | 30-Oct | 31-Oct | 31-Oct | Oct 31 (snow 26th) | 30-Oct |
| Last Day of Golf | Oct 24th (4 Golfers) | Oct 22 (3 Golfers) | 25th (19 golfers) | Oct 31 (13 golfers) | Oct 29 (9 golfers) |