



NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2021

Present: Kelly Cummings, Chair
William Beaney
Stephen Hunt, ESD
Thomas Keegan
Betty Little
Arthur Lussi
Diane Munro
Christopher Pushkarsh, OPRHP
Jeffrey Stefanko, DEC
Elinor Tatum

Also Present: Michael Pratt, President/CEO
Michelle Crew, General Counsel

Introduction: Chair Kelly Cummings called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Ms. Cummings then asked for a roll call, and confirmed a quorum was present. Ms. Cummings explained that the meeting was being videotaped and a link to the recording would be made available on www.orda.org.

Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Little, seconded by Ms. Munro, the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on March 19, 2021 were approved without changes.

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

President's Report: Mr. Pratt discussed the end of a strong winter season and a continuation of current operations or shift into different activities for the spring and summer months. He reported the continuation of no workplace transmissions of COVID-19. Pre-audit financial results indicated that despite restrictions and challenges, revenue and visitation had both increased, and expenses had decreased. 2021/2022 season passes, which began in March, are off to a tremendous start.

Mr. Pratt discussed the historic and educational significance of the popular Veterans Memorial Highway at Whiteface Mountain, and the need to address some masonry and window issues for the Castle and Roundhouse. The project will be strategically scheduled to account for Whiteface's highway operations and the short construction season that exists at the summit.



Mr. Pratt explained that the new Bear Lift proposed at Whiteface is a fixed grip quad that would approximately double the uphill capacity of the previous lift. Guests serviced by it can get to a variety of trails from it including easier rated terrain, as well as access the spectator area of Whiteface's downhill race finish. Mr. Lussi commented that the lift was a thoughtful plan that improved spectator access for events. Mr. Pratt said that with approval, the lift could be ready for the start of the upcoming winter season.

Mr. Pratt detailed the need for consolidating ORDA's administrative offices, which over time have been tucked into old locker room areas, conference facilities, and space that would otherwise be better utilized for guest experiences. While constructing the new administrative building, ORDA would simultaneously improve the 30-year old USOPTC dormitory with new windows, ventilation, siding, and more. The USOPC and NGBs have had a positive response to ORDA's recent improvements, and are working together to field the best possible US Team at the 2023 World University Games in Lake Placid. The Training Center will be USA Headquarters and Athletes Village for the Games.

Mr. discussed the Link Building project, which is the last major step in the Olympic Center Revitalization. The vision is for this area to become a destination for visitors and athletes, providing new access and connectivity to the rinks, the Lake Placid Olympic Museum, and the Conference Center, while adding services including new retail areas, updated indoor/outdoor dining, Olympic information, and more.

Ms. Little commented that ORDA has a legacy, and the support of NYS and the upcoming Games are not only incredible and exciting, but real. Mr. Lussi said that ORDA's attractions remain relevant even midweek in April, offering popular activities to add to the guest experience during the shoulder seasons.

Following Mr. Pratt's report, Ms. Munro spoke about the Coalition for Belleayre, a group that has concerns about Belleayre's current budget allocations. She said the coalition asked her and two other board members to vote no on the meeting's resolutions. Ms. Munro commended Mr. Pratt, Ms. Cummings, and the ORDA staff for their efforts, and let the board know she would vote her conscience on each resolution.

New Business:

Resolutions:

#413 Resolution Committing Capital and Granting Conditional Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into an Agreement for the Veterans Memorial Highway Castle & Roundhouse Project- Masonry & Window Refurbishment

On a motion by Mr. Keegan, seconded by Ms. Tatum.

Mr. Lussi inquired about the project term, which Mr. Pratt confirmed would likely span two years. 2021 construction would probably wrap up in late September, before temperatures



consistently drop below freezing.

All in favor, motion carries unanimously, adopted Resolution #413.

#414 Resolution Committing Capital and Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into an Agreement for Lift Modernizations at Whiteface Mountain for Replacement of the Bear Lift

On a motion by Mr. Lussi, seconded by Ms. Little.

7 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions from Mr. Keegan, Ms. Munro, and Ms. Tatum, adopted Resolution #414.

#415 Resolution Committing Capital and Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into Agreements for the Coordinated Project Including the Placid Memorial Hospital Demolition, ORDA Administration Building, and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center Dormitory Mitigation and Modernization

On a motion by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. Beaney.

Ms. Little was happy to see improved accessibility at the Olympic Center, and the commitment to the Training Center. She commented that there are only two Olympic Training Centers in the United States, and this asset is an important economic attribute to the North Country. Mr. Lussi noted the time and commitment that planning this project required, and that these projects were putting the public first.

8 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions from Ms. Munro and Ms. Tatum, adopted Resolution #415.

#416 Resolution Committing Capital and Granting Conditional Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into Agreements for the Olympic Center Revitalization Project- Arena Link Building

On a motion by Ms. Munro, seconded by Mr. Beaney.

All in favor, motion carries unanimously, adopted Resolution #416.

Chair:

Ms. Cummings announced that the next meeting was anticipated for June, and that the date would be announced when it was confirmed.

Ms. Munro inquired about ORDA's status regarding employee recruitment. Mr. Pratt explained that ORDA was committed to training, and that the organization has been somewhat challenged



to find skilled help. Standardization, sharing best practices across venues, and learning about specialty equipment collaboratively has been helpful. He complimented the devotion of staff and their commitment to safety. Ms. Munro asked for continued communication on the topic, and how employees could be celebrated. Ms. Tatum suggested a board resolution in recognition of the staff, and Ms. Cummings requested this be planned for the next meeting.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. Little, seconded by Ms. Tatum, the meeting of the Olympic Development Authority Board of Directors was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

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