



**NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2021**

Present: Kelly Cummings, Chair  
Bill Beaney  
Cliff Donaldson  
Stephen Hunt, ESD  
Andy Lack  
Betty Little  
Arthur Lussi  
Diane Munro  
Chris Pushkarsh, OPRHP  
Jeffrey Stefanko, DEC  
Elinor Tatum

*(Note: Andy Lack abstained from voting due to the inability to participate from a previously announced location open to the public.)*

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

Introduction: Chair Kelly Cummings called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Kelly Cummings explained that the meeting was being videotaped and a link to the recording would be made available on [www.orda.org](http://www.orda.org).

Kelly Cummings then asked for a roll call, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Minutes: On a motion by Elinor Tatum, seconded by Betty Little, the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on June 25, 2021 were approved without changes.

President's Report: Mike Pratt acknowledged that the ORDA staff has been doing a remarkable job, as recognized by the board at a previous meeting.



ORDA had tremendous success with its recent season pass price deadline and is already approaching the total record numbers of last year.

Summer operations revenue is up \$1.2 million over 2019, and \$1.9 million over 2020. Highlights include disc golf at the three ski areas, new summer bobsled rides at Mt. Van Hoevenberg, and a July concert held at Belleayre. The gondola rides have welcomed over 46,000 scenic riders.

In a review of previous fiscal years, Mike Pratt showed how ORDA has also been able to reduce its debt and increase its net income.

Mike Pratt updated the board on progress with capital projects. Belleayre has been aggressively updating its snowmaking system while paving its Base Area roads and installing a new outdoor concession area at the Discovery Lodge. Gore has done trail work to improve the guest experience as well as prepare its spectator-friendly freestyle courses for the World University Games. Whiteface is busy with a major snowmaking overhaul while finishing the Legacy Lodge.

The Ski Jumps project has been going remarkably well, and summer surfaces will be applied over the next two weeks.

Olympic Center construction progress includes installing the main lines for refrigeration at the Oval, ceiling work and seat preparation at the 1932 Rink, and staying on schedule at the 1980 Rink. The 1980 Rink is on a schedule that is one process behind the 1932 Rink, so that the groups go from one to the other.

Mike Pratt provided an overview about the Lake Placid Museum, which features the second largest collection of Winter Olympic artifacts in the world. The goal is to modernize the Museum experience with interactive and digital exhibits and attract more visitors. The Museum was recently accepted by the USOPC into the Olympic Museum Network.

The new museum plan is about 1,500 square feet larger than the previous space, and exits into ORDA's new retail space. ORDA has recently taken over retail operations at all venues, and feedback has been positive.



Andy Lack explained that Dick Pound of the International Olympic Committee thought that the Lake Placid Olympic Museum was a very comprehensive collection of the two Winter Olympics and provided a visitor-friendly experience. Wider marketing of it between Canada and New York was encouraged.

Diane Munro asked about museum funding and revenue, and Mike Pratt explained that there are grant programs available, as well as opportunities for increased revenue as the museum experience improves.

Mike Pratt explained ORDA's active relationship with the USOPC, which involves a busy schedule of athlete training and events. The revised agreement would include increased fiscal benefits to ORDA and a new annual operational fund. Mike Pratt explained the numerous regional economic benefits of ORDA's work within sport, and how recent improvements and modernizations of the venues have supported this important relationship.

Governance:

Chris Pushkarsh provided a report of the Governance Committee Meeting. The committee recommended that the Board adopt the proposed Governance Charter and Defense & Indemnification and Code of Ethics policies. Chris Pushkarsh noted one necessary edit to the Code of Ethics, as the word "not" needed to be inserted at the end of the last sentence in the second paragraph of Section 6.

New Business:

Resolutions:

**#427** Resolution Approving Governance Committee Charter

On a motion by Diane Munro, seconded by Bill Beaney.

On June 25, 2021, the ORDA Board approved and established a Governance Committee. Michelle Crew explained that this resolution seeks approval by the Board of the Governance Committee Charter, which sets forth, among other things, the purpose, composition, responsibilities, meetings, and reporting requirements of the Governance Committee and its members.

11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention from Andy Lack, adopted Resolution #427.



**#428** Resolution Approving Certain Policies: Defense and Indemnification; Code of Ethics

On a motion by Arthur Lussi, seconded by Betty Little.

Michelle Crew explained that previous versions of these policies required some updates and clarification. Diane Munro commented that the committee found the updates to be clear and easy to work through.

11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention from Andy Lack, adopted Resolution #428

**#429** Resolution Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into Agreements for Water System Upgrades at Gore Mountain

On a motion by Betty Little, seconded by Elinor Tatum.

Mike Pratt explained that Gore's water classification for potable water is a noncommunity public water system. It is tested frequently and contaminants were recently identified, likely due to salt getting into the aquifer. There is another well that has been tested and meets the requirements. ORDA is still developing the design but is seeking board approval now so the issue can be resolved as soon as possible.

11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention from Andy Lack, adopted Resolution #429

**#430** Resolution Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into an Agreement with the Lake Placid Olympic Museum

On a motion by Cliff Donaldson, seconded by Betty Little.

11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention from Andy Lack, adopted Resolution #430.

**#431** Resolution Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into an Agreement with United State Olympic & Paralympic Committee

On a motion by Bill Beaney, seconded by Diane Munro.



11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention from Andy Lack, adopted Resolution #431.

Chair:

Kelly Cummings announced that the next meeting will be on Friday, September 24, 2021. There will also be an Executive Committee meeting that day. (*RF: This date was later updated to Wednesday, September 22.*) Kelly Cummings introduced new Board Secretary Renee Fitzgerald.

Diane Munro requested an update on the Belleayre Unit Management Plan (UMP), and Mike Pratt explained that ORDA is very close to finalizing documentation to propose amending the UMPs for both Belleayre and Whiteface.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Cliff Donaldson, seconded by Elinor Tatum, the meeting of the Olympic Development Authority Board of Directors was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.