



**NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2023**

Present: Joe Martens, Chair
Stephen Hunt, ESD
Arthur Lussi
Chris Pushkarsh, OPRHP
Joe Zalewski, DEC
Cliff Donaldson
Diane Munro
Bill Beaney
Elinor Tatum
Frank Cardinale

(Note: Elinor Tatum joined as an observer only, 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 Joe Martens called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Joe Martens explained that the meeting was being videotaped and a link to the recording would be made available at www.orda.org.

Joe Martens then asked for a roll call, and confirmed a quorum was present. Frank Cardinale joined after roll call.

Minutes: On a motion by Cliff Donaldson, seconded by Art Lussi. Diane Munro noted that Elinor Tatum would like the minutes to reflect that “Elinor Tatum objected to the proposed new mission statement because it did not adequately represent, in her opinion, the vast range of New Yorkers and athletes that ORDA is tasked to serve. She believes that it is ORDA’s mission to be inclusive of all people and that the language used does not include people with disabilities”.

Joe Martens asked for a motion to amend the meeting minutes to include Elinor’s statement. On a motion by Diane Munro, seconded by Art Lussi, the Board of Directors approved the amendment of the meeting minutes to include Elinor’s statement. Thereafter, the minutes of the Board of



Directors meeting held on December 19, 2022, as amended, were approved by the Board of Directors.

Executive Session: On a motion by Joe Zalewski, seconded by Diane Munro, the Olympic Authority Board of Directors entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment or employment of a particular person or corporation.

After a motion and second, the Olympic Authority Board of Directors voted to exit Executive Session and resumed public session. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Governance
Committee:

Chris Pushkarsh provided a report of the Governance Committee meeting. The Governance committee discussed some matters related to the confidential evaluation of Board performance. He explained that this is an annual requirement under the Public Authorities Law. He further explained that it is the Governance Committee's responsibility to compile and summarize the responses and submit them to the various State entities that are listed in the Public Authorities Law.

After in depth discussion, the Committee members agreed that space would be added to provide comments and/or explanations following each item. The Committee also discussed the process for collecting and compiling the completed forms. It was agreed that the Board Secretary will be responsible for collecting the forms and sending the completed forms to the Committee Chair for compilation.

President's Report: Mike Pratt explained that the Olympic Authority has been extremely busy since the last Board meeting. The Olympic Authority hosted the FISU Winter World University Games. There were many challenges with this event being planned during a global pandemic. This event was done with the biggest Olympic region ever that also included Potsdam, Canton, Saranac Lake, and North Creek. The Olympic Authority staff stayed focused and concentrated on providing the best field of play possible. There were 68 events with no controversies and the venues shined due to the efforts of staff.

The Olympic Authority hosted the first World Cup Ski Jumping event in North America in 21 years. This was the first World Cup Ski Jumping event in Lake Placid in 31 years. The event was well received with 7,000 spectators on both Saturday and Sunday. FIS would like the Olympic Authority to agree to annual events and consider bidding for a Nordic World Championship in 2031.



NYSEF has been hosting races at all three of the ski venues. All three ski areas are expanding youth programming by working with local schools and staying open a little later two days a week to try and get more skiers excited about the sport and the facilities.

Mike explained that the Olympic Authority's labor costs are up, and the new union contract has facilitated the hiring of more employees. The Olympic Authority has not returned to pre-pandemic levels and are still a little short staffed in some areas.

The Olympic Authority, through effective cash flow management and growing its operational revenue, has been able to start investing and has made \$30,000 in interest. The Olympic Authority is debt free for the first time in history.

Next year's season passes have gone on sale and have already sold a record number for this time of year. Of the passes that have been sold, 70% of them are to new pass holders.

Mike discussed the upcoming venue planning. The Olympic Authority committed \$34,550,000 of next year's capital to the purchase of lifts at Belleayre, Gore, and Whiteface, and the purchase of Gore Solar.

The Olympic Authority continues to struggle with supply chain issues. There are so many different challenges from market volatility to peer review. There are three variables that you have to consider during construction which include quality, price, and speed. Environmental projects and permitting take time and need to be organized in order for this to happen timely.

Mike discussed Executive Order 22 which is robust, multi-faceted, and will affect every Department and Division within State entities. The Olympic Authority has a lot of unique entities, and it will take time and planning to make sure that the Olympic Authority is meeting expectations in order to continue to be successful.

At Belleayre, Gore, and Whiteface there are plans for lodge modernizations, additional snowmaking improvements, trail expansions, electrical distribution improvements, and improved parking.

At Mt. Van Hoevenberg, the Bobsled track is getting ready to host the Bobsled and Skeleton World Championships in a couple years. The



current track has a lot of maintenance needs. The refrigeration system is from before the Olympics and needs modernization.

At the Olympic Center, the 1932 Rink has masonry deterioration to be addressed, and the USA garage roof needs to be replaced.

At the Olympic Jumping Complex, there are multiple areas in need of maintenance including the judges tower, the 128-observation area, the starting platform, improvements to the staging building, and the installation of a summer surface on the K48. The Olympic Authority is also investigating if they could do some kicker redevelopment and include an angle for big air jumping into to the pool during the summer months.

At the Olympic Training Center, athletes are looking for improvements to the strength & conditioning equipment, sports medicine & athlete recovery, national team administration space, and dining upgrades.

The Veterans' Memorial Highway needs additional work including water and wastewater infrastructure improvements, repair to the castle chimney and heating system, and the Toll House needs updates to the electrical service.

The Olympic Authority has been including hiking and biking trail planning within its UMP process. The Olympic Authority feels that they could provide front country solutions to help DEC's backcountry problems.

Mike explained that taking care of all the facilities' equipment is extensive. To take care of the equipment, the garages at Gore and Whiteface need to be updated. At the Ski Jumps there is no garage to store equipment. At Belleayre they need a grip maintenance building, vehicle maintenance garage, and original garage demolished. Gore needs wastewater plant upgrades, water storage upgrades necessary to install fire suppression, and a snowcat facility. Mt. Van Hoevenberg needs a bobsled garage expansion. The Olympic Center needs garage roof replacement and conference center retaining wall. The Olympic Jumping Complex needs a maintenance garage with an oil water separator system and freestyle pool filter replacement. Whiteface needs a maintenance/snowcat facility.

Mike discussed the DOMO resolution and explained that this is a management tool to allow us to make sense of the data. There are people that are using it to analyze real time visitor information, real time



revenue information, or trends to see what the hot selling item is in the retail store. The Olympic Authority has been using this system for three years. It is connected and integrated with our other customer management systems. There is the possibility for cost savings if we commit to a three-year contract.

Board members commended staff for their efforts and holding the World University Games. It was a very successful event.

New Business:

Resolutions:

#478 Resolution Committing Capital and Authorizing the President and CEO to Enter Into an Agreement Extending the Contract for Business Intelligence Software Platform

On a motion by Diane Munro, seconded by Cliff Donaldson.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, Resolution #478 adopted.

Chair:

Joe Martens announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 24.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Art Lussi, seconded by Cliff Donaldson, the meeting of the Olympic Regional Development Authority Board of Directors was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.