

EAGLECREST BOARD OF DIRECTIONS
Meeting Minutes
(DRAFT)
Thursday September 5th, 2019, 5:30pm
City Hall Room 224

Agenda:

1. ROLL CALL

Board members Bruce Garrison, Stephanie Hoag, Jon Dale, Shawn Eisely and Dave Hanna were present and Mike Satre was present by phone.
General Manager Dave Scanlan was also present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dave Hanna moved to adopt the agenda with the addition of a discussion of the Magic Carpet under Unfinished Business. The motion was seconded and the agenda was approved with no objection

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. August 1st meeting minutes

It was noted that numbering was off and will be corrected on the August 1 minutes. Dave Hanna moved to approve the agenda, Jon seconded, and the minutes were approved without objection

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

5. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

a. Planning Committee August 21st. Dave Hanna reported that there was good attendance and discussion at the meeting, where the committee reviewed the results from the RFI solicitation. The committee also reviewed funding options from a matrix developed by Dave Scanlan and Rory Watt and agreed to continue fleshing out options before ruling any out. All-public funding or public-private partnerships were currently the most favored options. The committee discussed timelines and board roles as we move forward.

Dave Hanna agreed to meet with the Eaglecrest Foundation about the project and funding; he has begun doing so and will be ready to report at the next meeting. Shawn agreed to investigate non-profit funding options; he has not found options to investigate at this point.

Dave Scanlan met with Jeff Rogers and the city's bond manager about the idea of a revenue bond. They were positive about being able to put together a revenue bond package. There are two possible mechanisms for doing so; the first would involve 3rd party vetting of all financial assumptions in the plan, and

the second would involve a partner or corporation with a strong balance sheet to take a second position and guarantee the bond.

Interest rates are very low right now. 4-5% would be a smart planning number but interest could be 2% or below. There will be a conference call next week after time to look things over. Shawn inquired about potential partners and Dave mentioned several potential candidates. Shawn also asked about potential visitor guarantees from Cruise industry; that has not pursued and is probably not feasible. General obligation bonds were discussed as a less costly option, but a burden on taxpayers is not desired.

Next steps will be more conversation, pursuance of 3rd-party vetting and a request to get be on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole on October 28.

6. MANAGERS REPORT -

See details in the Manager's Result

Additional items discussed include:

- Mountain Operations: The Porcupine Lift gear box will be ready ahead of schedule, with the cost coming in at the upper end of the repair quote (~\$50,000). A date for the Ptarmigan rope splice be announced soon and extra hands will be needed. A new senior groomer has been hired and started today.
- Marketing: The delay with online pass sales due to credit card processing issues is being resolved. Hopefully the new e-commerce store will be up and running within a few days.
- Events: Two more Rotary presentations are scheduled for October. The Hilda Dam cabin will be nearly complete for the dedication ceremony on September 28th. It should be ready for rentals within a few weeks after that.
- Summer Operations Update: Negotiations are under way with AK Coach Tours to provide 8 days of walking tours on lower loop next summer. Alaska Liquid Tours may also contract to provide activities next summer. Zrinko Amerl (global resort planning consultant) has some used gondolas in Europe as options.
- An online public survey about summer operation plans should be ready by Monday.

Bruce asked about snowplowing on the road for the coming winter. A third meeting with DOT is coming up. DOT may solicit a third-party plowing contractor. There is also a conversation going on about a potential road plowing swap with CBJ.

7. UNFINISHED BUISNESS

a. Dependent Passes and Trade Policy

We are still waiting for the city attorney to look over policies. He just returned from vacation.

b. Smoking policy on lifts

This is in the queue for guidance from the city attorney

- c. Magic Carpet. The Eaglecrest Foundation is on board to do fundraising after discussions with mountain staff and approval of the board.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Commercial Use Permit for Walking Tours
Dave has authority to do this without board approval. He is keeping the board in the loop. He has a draft of a contract agreement and after the vendor looks at it, it will go to the legal department. Board has not been involved in the past in contracts. Bruce would like for the planning committee to have some input.
- b. Commercial Use Permit for Tours in Lower Nordic Loop
See above under a.
- c. Pay Range increase for Ski Patrol job class series
Patrollers are currently getting an extremely low rate of pay, and Dave has proposed to bump up the range for each ski patrol job class. This would mean a \$1 per hour raise for all ski patrol personnel, and the Human Resource department thinks this may be feasible. The ski patrol staff members are required to have medical training, provide personal equipment, and deal with extreme weather conditions.
Shawn moved to authorize Dave to move forward to negotiate a wage class upgrade for patrollers as well as modifications to personnel rules to allow more advanced step increases, within our operating budget. Dave Hanna seconded the motion which passed without objection. This is a first step down the path to stand up for employees. Some instructors have not had a raise in 20 years.
- d. The Planning Committee will meet September 12th at 5:30 at City Hall
- e. Beer and Wine for Discover Eaglecrest Day. Dave moved and Stephanie seconded the motion to approve alcohol sales at the event, and it passed without objection.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none

10. BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mike has been checking on the no smoking policy. He is looking forward to getting back to Juneau

Dave is glad to see everything moving forward and has had good feedback on everything except maybe online pass sales. Thanks to staff and to board for staying involved.

Shawn is amazed at all the good things going on and thinks we should continue and increase efforts to keep the public informed.

Jon also mentioned transparency to the public and the need to tell our story about all going on. He hopes for lots of snow.

Stephanie had spent the day at Eaglecrest and was impressed to see all the work on the RFID gates, the cabin, the piping and other projects. She thanks all of those staff and volunteers who have been getting the work done.

Bruce has met our new head groomer and is excited to have him on the staff and offered kudos to all of the staff.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50

The next meeting date is October 3rd 2019 at 5:30 in room 224 City Hall