
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Mountain Recreation Metropolitan District – May 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Of the Board of Directors Mountain Recreation Metropolitan District May 18, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mountain Recreation Metropolitan District, Eagle County, Colorado, was held on May 18, 2022, at 6:00pm, in the Gypsum Recreation Center, 52 Lundgren Blvd, Gypsum, Colorado, and via Zoom platform, in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State of Colorado.

Attendance The following Directors were present and acting:

- Jason Cowles
- Mikayla Curtis
- Tracy Erickson (attending remotely)
- Liz Jones
- Chris Pryor

Also in attendance were:

- Janet Bartnik, Executive Director
- Anna Englehart, Superintendent of Recreation Programs
- Scott Robinson, Superintendent of Business Operations
- Scott Ruff, Superintendent of Recreation Facilities
- Eddie Campos, Marketing and Communications Manager
- Cat Olson, Human Resources Manager
- Lauren Shively, Facility Supervisor - Gypsum
- Brad Johnson, Facility Supervisor – Edwards
- Amy Burford, Administrative Assistant
- Sheryl Staten, Facility Supervisor – Eagle (attending remotely)
- Ken Marchetti, Marchetti and Weaver
- Tom Pohl
- Kris Miller (attending remotely)
- Joanna Kerwin (attending remotely)
- Terri Lester (attending remotely)

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Mountain Recreation Metropolitan District was called to order by Chairperson Jones on May 18, 2022, at 6:00pm, noting a quorum was present to conduct business.

2. Welcome Newly Elected Members / Recognition of Outgoing Members

Director Jones welcomed Jason Cowles and Tracy Erickson to the board. Director Jones thanked Director Pohl and Director McCormack for their service to the board. Mr. Pohl was presented with a gift for his service as a board member.

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3. Oath of Office / Election of Officers

Director Jones stated that the oath of office has been administered for each new member prior to the board meeting to comply with statutory requirements. Those oaths had been filed with the County Clerk & Recorder and would be filed shortly with the County Court and DOLA. With new board members seated, the board was required to elect officers. In previous years, the board has elected a president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and two assistant treasurer / assistant secretary positions. Director Jones asked board members to consider electing officers, starting with president.

Director Pryor nominated Director Jones for the position president.

Director Jones nominated Director Pryor for the position vice president.

Director Jones nominated Director Curtis for the position secretary/treasurer.

Director Jones nominated Director Erickson and Director Cowles for the assistant treasurer / assistant secretary positions.

Nominations were approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

4. Changes to the Agenda

Director Jones asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Director Pryor requested that the Edwards Field House Irrigation Work business item be discussed earlier in the agenda.

5. Minutes

Director Jones asked the Board to consider the April 20, 2022 meeting minutes.

Director Pryor moved to approve the April 20, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Director Curtis seconded the motion. By a vote of 3-0-2, with Directors Cowles and Erickson abstaining, it was

RESOLVED to approve the April 20, 2022, meeting minutes as presented.

6. Public Input

Director Jones asked for anyone from the public wishing to share comments with the board to do so at this time. She asked members of the public attending in person to share comments first and then members of the public joining virtually.

Joanna Kerwin (Edwards) and Terri Lester (Edwards) both asked to give their three minutes to Kris Miller.

Kris Miller (Edwards) welcomed the two new directors to the board. She thanked Tom Pohl for his time served on the board of directors. She expressed concerns about the

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proceedings of the All Access Rec campaign. She stated that she was in favor of the May 3rd election results. Comments attached.

7. Presentations

Director Jones invited Scott Robinson to share an update on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, a project the staff named Forward Together. Mr. Robinson shared information about The Colorado Health Foundation grant investments in DEI training for staff, language training and translation, scholarships funded for participants, the outdoor recreation mobile gear library, and personnel and marketing funds. He highlighted the areas of diversity focused on by staff in creating welcoming spaces and recapped the 2021 Forward Together training curriculum.

He shared that Mountain Recreation was a finalist in the Excellence in DEI category at the Vail Valley Partnership's 19th Annual Success Awards. Mr. Robinson pointed out the success of staff Spanish language courses by stating that more Spanish is being spoken at front desk locations, all job postings are bilingual, and there were two bilingual camp registration events within the last year. He stated that the recent active older adults event in Edwards was very successful.

Mr. Robinson reviewed the staff-set goals and commitments to action. He shared that staff has asked for more training to make sure the entire community feels welcome in Mountain Recreation facilities.

Director Jones asked if there has been a survey of staff to see if this work has been successful. Mr. Robinson shared the information gathered from pre and post surveys. He stated that the post survey response from staff was that they believed this work was important.

Director Jones members thanked Mr. Robinson for his report.

8. Business

a. Forward Together Consultation Services Contract

Mr. Robinson stated that work to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion funded by The Colorado Health Foundation began in 2021. Phase Two of the work includes development of a blueprint from internal assessment data. He summarized the procurement process and recommended approval of a contract with The Equity Project for year two training and blueprint development services. Mr. Robinson presented a contract in the amount of \$26,750 with The Equity Project LLC for consultant services.

Director Curtis asked if the full cost of the contract will be a Colorado Health Foundation grant expense. Mr. Robinson confirmed that the full amount is a grant expense.

Discussion ensued about what the costs for next year will be. Mr. Robinson stated that the costs for 2023 be guided by the blueprint plan developed with this project.

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Director Jones moved to approve a contract with The Equity Project in the amount of \$26,750 for consultant services as presented. Director Cowles seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve a contract with The Equity Project in the amount of \$26,750 for consultant services as presented.

b. Edwards Fieldhouse Irrigation Work

Mr. Johnson stated that currently the irrigation lines and sprinkler heads sit above ground. This has led to constant repair and replacement of parts that costs upwards of \$1,000 a year and costs are rising annually. He stated that he solicited bids for a contractor to bury the irrigation system. He recommended that approval of a contract with Stevens Home Care in the amount of \$9,314.24.

Director Jones asked if there were other options for that space. Mr. Johnson stated that other options to consider would be native grasses or xeriscaping.

Director Pryor mentioned the costs that would be occurring with the repair of the splashpad and expressed his concern about water usage. He stated that he believed xeriscaping or native grass would be a good option. He suggested that the contract should be postponed for now.

The board gave direction to postpone the irrigation work and suggested more research be done regarding other options for the space.

c. Consultant Services – Eagle Pool

Mr. Ruff stated that with aging mechanical systems, residual concerns from 2017 pool leak issues, subsurface destabilization concerns, and an aging slide, a decision will need to be made jointly by the Town and District whether to repair or replace the pool. He stated that Associated Pools, the firm that built both the Eagle Outdoor Pool and the Gypsum Recreation Center Pool, has offered to provide an analysis of the pool condition at no charge to the District.

Director Cowles asked if staff had copies of any geotechnical reports from the original build. He stated that there are methods to prevent further settlement of the ground and he believes it is in our best interest to engage with a geotechnical engineer.

Ms. Bartnik suggested the District work with the Town of Eagle, geotechnical engineers, and Associated Pools to gather information and decide on the future of the Eagle Pool.

Director Jones asked Ms. Staten if there was any evidence of settling in or around the ice rink. Ms. Staten confirmed that she has not seen any movement at the ice rink and that the main concern is the pool and pool deck.

Director Erickson stated that he believes hiring a geotechnical engineer is a good idea.

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The board gave direction to the District to consult with the Town of Eagle, a geotechnical engineer, and Associated Pools.

The board thank Mr. Ruff for his work and directed him to proceed with the analysis from Associated Pools.

Director Pryor moved to appoint Director Cowles to the Eagle Pool and Ice Rink capital committee. Director Jones seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to appoint Director Cowles as a member of the Eagle Pool and Ice Rink capital committee.

d. Edwards Outdoor Rink - Direction

Mr. Johnson stated that after two years of successful usage, community members have reached out to Mountain Recreation on the need for expansion of the outdoor ice rink to two sheets of ice. With the limited footprint in the parking lot, the addition of a second sheet is not possible in the current location. Staff, working with community members and Eagle County, have identified a location that can host the two rinks on the southwest baseball field, east of the playground structure. The relocation of the rinks would require a water line installation and water capacity analysis. Vail Mountaineer Hockey Club has suggested use of EZ-ICE systems. The total cost of two EZ-ICE systems is expected to be \$18,301. The Vail Mountaineer Hockey Club has offered to pay for one EZ-ICE system in exchange for usage of the ice. The rink currently relies on volunteers from the community to help maintain operations during the season. There is a concern that there could be a shortage of volunteers in the future. Mr. Johnson stated that the staff seeks direction on future investment, ice sheet addition, and relocation of the Edwards Outdoor Ice Rink

Director Cowles expressed that the ice rinks are a great resource for the community. He stated that he believes the EZ-ICE systems are an affordable option and a good investment.

Mr. Johnson shared the positive experience of working on the outdoor ice rink with the community and volunteers the past two years.

Director Pryor asked about the details of water usage in relation to the ice sheets. Discussion ensued of how much water will be used. Director Cowles shared his previous experience with maintaining an ice rink and was able to provide an estimate of water usage.

Director Pryor stated that he believes relocating the outdoor rink is a good idea.

Discussion ensued about the lighting options for the rink. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Bartnik shared they have researched temporary lighting options to be used at the rink.

Director Erickson asked about the location of the water line and if there was another option for a shorter water line installation. Director Cowles explained

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that running the water line from Red Barn Road is the location that makes the most sense.

Director Erickson asked about using the vacant lot north of the Field House for the additional sheet of ice. Ms. Bartnik explained that she has asked Eagle County previously and they have declined to allow the temporary use of the space for a rink.

Director Curtis asked if this would be a maintenance or capital expense. Ms. Bartnik confirmed it would be a capital expense.

Director Curtis asked where the EZ-ICE systems would be stored. Ms. Bartnik stated that they would be stored in the Eagle Sports Complex maintenance building.

Director Pryor left the meeting.

Kris Miller (Edwards) asked how much water would be used to build the ice sheet. Director Cowles stated that it takes about 7 -10 days to build a sheet of ice. He stated that it is not a big stress on the water system because the process is done in layers. He shared that part of the research process was to check in with Eagle River Water and Sanitation District about the water usage.

The board directed staff to move forward in researching the options for a second ice rink.

e. Other Business

Director Jones moved to appoint Director Erickson to the Gypsum Recreation Center committee. Director Cowles seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to appoint Director Erickson as a member of the Gypsum Recreation Center committee.

Director Curtis moved to appoint Director Jones to the Mountain Recreation Foundation board of directors. Director Cowles seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to appoint Direct Jones as a member of the Mountain Recreation Foundation board of directors.

9. Financial Matters

a. Financial Statements

b. Accounts Payable

Mr. Marchetti stated that he is pleased to know that Ms. Platter's replacement will be onboarding June 1. He stated that the financial reports provided still had some loose ends such as the details on timing of the outdoor recreation program revenues and expenses. He stated that the revenues were very strong and there were some timing variances when it came to property taxes.

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Director Jones asked about the variances in the outdoor recreation program. Mr. Marchetti explained that we were missing monthly projection distributions.

Director Curtis moved to approve the financial statements and accounts payable report as presented. Director Cowles seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve the financial statements and accounts payable report.

c. Capital Equipment Purchases – Security Cameras at Eagle and Gypsum

Ms. Shively stated that there is a need to update the facility camera system for security purposes and to record any incidents that staff may encounter at the facility. Ms. Staten stated that Eagle's current security camera system only has 3 operable cameras out of 6. Staff is requesting 12 new cameras with updated technology. Staff received two bids and staff recommends the Board approve the quote from Intermountain Systems for \$6,899.98 in Eagle and \$3,261.84 in Gypsum. Intermountain Systems installed the current security system at the Edwards Field House and Gypsum Recreation Center.

Director Curtis asked if there will be enough hard drive space to support the cameras. Mr. Ruff explains the hard drive system will be upgraded providing sufficient space.

Director Jones asked if we have cameras at the Eagle Sport Complex. Mr. Ruff confirmed that there are no cameras. Director Jones mentioned that the District may want to think about installing cameras there in the future.

Director Curtis moved to approve the installation of security cameras by Intermountain Systems in Eagle for \$6,899.98 and in Gypsum for \$3,261.84. Director Cowles seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve the installation of security cameras by Intermountain Systems in Eagle for \$6,899.98 and in Gypsum for \$3,261.84.

10. Staff Reports

- a. Administration
- b. Facilities Division
- c. Recreation Programs Division

11. Reports & Board Communication

Director Jones stated that she enjoyed Ms. Bartnik's State of the District communication. Director Jones pointed out that it was very well written, and she thanked Ms. Bartnik.

Director Curtis asked about the cancellation of some of the outdoor recreation programs. Ms. Englehart explained there was staffing shortage, and this led to the overnight camp

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cancellations. She talked about the challenges of finding staff that meet the age and certification requirements needed to lead overnight camps.

Director Jones asked about comments from the public. Ms. Englehart explained that people have been disappointed in the cancellations, but they understand. Ms. Englehart confirmed that the goal of hiring a full-time outdoor recreation coordinator will help with these issues.

Director Jones stated that she thought the staff reports were great and very thoughtful.

Ms. Bartnik shared that she would like to schedule a time the board can get together for a board retreat.

Adjournment

Director Jones moved to adjourn the board meeting. Director Cowles seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Good Evening. My name is Kris Miller, I live in Edwards Colorado.

I am very excited to welcome Tracy Erickson and Jason Cowles to the Board of Directors.

Tracy, you have an incredible historical knowledge of WECMRD as well as all of the Intergovernmental Agreements related to the various Rec Centers in the County. Your knowledge of the governing documents is going to prove invaluable as the taxpayers of the community move forward with a well-managed Board. Your ability to work within budgets, and address short and long term maintenance projects and goals are going to be a wonderful addition to Mountain Rec. Welcome aboard, we are so very lucky and proud to have your expertise and willingness to serve! Thank you!

Jason, welcome! While I don't know a lot about your thoughts moving forward relative to Mountain Rec, I do know that I have followed along with your career at the Water District, and find your knowledge and involvement in community to be vast and upstanding. Having attended the majority of the District and Authority Board meetings, I see that you lead with deep integrity and a thoughtfulness for the concerns of Eagle County. I have never been concerned regarding bad actors influencing your thoughtful and upstanding leadership. I look forward with cautious optimism as to your continued leadership and transparency here at Mountain Rec. It is clear that your reputation and career are very important to you, and as a taxpayer and community member I welcome you to this Board with excitement for your continued excellence of service! Thank you!

Tom – Thank you for your hard work and time on the Board. Your work is appreciated and noted. Enjoy your free time!

Taking a step back,

While this conversation may have been more timely during the previously scheduled “next steps” meeting, scheduled for Friday May 13th, 2022, unfortunately, it was hastily canceled after the election results were called, even though all board members checked their calendars and indicated the meeting date and time would work within their schedules. For that reason, these comments will be made now, with direction that they be included in the official meeting minutes.

To the Board, I certainly hope that you heard us, the taxpayers of Mountain Rec. loud and clear with the election process.

We voted for integrity, transparency and fiscal responsibility. We will not and do not wish for increased mill levies. We are showing you, with our voices that working within your very large budget is what is necessary and appropriate. We do not wish to see such wasteful use of our taxpayer dollars.

Spending over \$180 thousand dollars (+/-) on two failed ballot initiatives is not the best use of our money.

Moving forward, you will have a very large group of individuals paying very close attention to the daily operations of Mountain Rec. It is important that you HEAR us, that you let us dialogue with the Board and Staff to make sound decisions moving in to the future.

Additionally, while there were some clear violations of the Fair Campaign Practices Act and TABOR, it is not up to us to decide your fate where that is concerned. The Colorado Secretary of State, Division of Elections, as well as legal council will take point on this very serious issue. This process is not a fast one, but be assured, everything is being scrutinized to the fullest extent of the law.

Chairperson Jones, you made a fatal mistake when you sent an email to the entirety of Buckhorn Valley on April 13, 2022, asking for a favorable vote, and signing the letter as president of the board of Mountain Wreck. Clearly, within the capacity of your paid employment, you broke several CCIOA regulations.

We, the taxpayers have an expectation that the financials of Mountain Rec. will be available to us in depth, to be assured that staff time has been, and will only be, spent on tasks specifically related to their employment contracts, and further, that taxpayer dollars are not spent on legal counsel in defense of any sanctions that may be upcoming due to the egregious breach of ethics we have seen during the last two election cycles.

Staff must understand that this is not how governmental or quasi-governmental districts are run, and must now move forward with clear direction and intent. No back room meetings, no closed door discussions. Welcome to the sunshine!

Any future increase in funding due to re-evaluation of property assessments must be accounted for and managed within the constraints of the IGA's and the GAAP set forth for the district. No more taking from one community for the improvement of another, over and above the percentages of participation. We expect fair and equitable distribution throughout.

We look forward to the new Mountain Rec. Board of Directors working with depth, integrity and a clear path to the future we, the taxpayers have voiced so clearly.

Thank you,
Kris Miller