

EAGLECREST BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes
Thursday March 7th, 2019, 5:30pm
Room 224

Minutes:

1. ROLL CALL

All board members were present: Mike Satre, Mike Stanley, Bruce Garrison, Jon Dale, Stephanie Hoag, Megan Gregory, Dave Hanna
General Manager Dave Scanlan was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mike Stanley moved to approve the agenda, Stephanie seconded the motion and the Agenda was unanimously approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. February 7th meeting minutes Mike Satre moved to approve the minutes, Mike Stanley seconded, and the minutes were approved with no objection.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

5. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

None.

6. MANAGERS REPORT was presented by Dave Scanlan.

- a. Financial Report. See the Manager's Report for detail. It was noted that while our expenses exceed our revenue, that amount is less than it has been for the past four years YTD.
- b. Mt Operations Update. See the Manager's Report for detail.
Chair repairs have been ongoing. Dave is waiting for the report from Superior Tramway with an analysis of needs and anticipates contracting some help to get the work done.
Black Bear chair will not run for "Black Bear Friday" tomorrow since a slow turnout is anticipated. It will run on Monday and Friday during spring break. There was a discussion of Black Bear unloading difficulties which are due to a poor design. Brian Davies suggests that the ramp be moved back about 2 feet.
Snowmaking: The snowmaking concluded on February 11 with a total expense of \$49,400 for the year. Mike Stanley asked about comments on the snowmaking video and Dave reported that he has gotten some good feedback. The temporary water use authorization has come through from DNR.
- c. Snowsports School has had strong sales. See Manager's Report for details.

- d. Events. A list of events is included in the Manager's Report. The March 30 State Championship race will bring in 117 racers plus parents, generating extra day pass and food sales.
- e. Nordic grooming has been consistent on both loops. The Border 2 Border event by the Juneau Nordic Ski Club should bring a lot of Nordic skiers to Eaglecrest.
- f. Field House Update. See Manager's Report. We are expecting the PRAC Board to reach out in April with an agenda for a joint meeting

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Summer Prep, Zipline target move in dates and Commercial Permit expiration date.

The current zipline permit covers use of Eaglecrest through the summer of 2021. The zipline brought in about \$50,000 in revenue last year, up from \$35,000 the previous year. The zipline move in date is expected to be April 20.

- b. Magic Carpet Quotes, The Eaglecrest Foundation status.

Dave received a detailed spec sheet and quote from Rocky Mountain Equipment: \$106,000 for a 30-inch wide magic carpet or \$102,000 for a 24 inch wide carpet. There was general agreement that the wider carpet is desirable. He is waiting for a response from a second company. An approximate \$190,000 total cost is anticipated with freight and dirt work, Included. The hope is that the Eaglecrest Foundation would start a fundraising campaign for this, and that revenue from chair signage could cover it. There was some discussion of chair signs, costs, and the desire that memorial signs previously purchased should stay (somewhere).

- c. RFID Ticketing equipment status and plan
Dave is working on getting an RFQ together. It will be Important that it works well with our InTouch point of sale software. We might need to upgrade to the latest platform, and it might be good idea to go to a software subscription. The purpose of an RFID ticketing system is both to secure lost revenue, and to collect data.
- d. Mountain Host Program, next steps, planning committee
There was discussion of instituting a program using volunteers to ski with people new to mountain, help keep lift lines in order, and generally help skiers with information. Other ski areas do this, giving season passes to volunteers who commit to a number of days. Mountain Hosts might be identified by a patch on their jacket, so they can be located by people who have questions, or by lift operators who get calls from the ticket window with requests for a host. Dave will run this idea by the insurance representative who is visiting soon.

- e. Base Area traffic flow improvements / exterior stairs on Porcupine Lodge / Draft Summer Project List

The board looked at plans for an exterior stairway on the Porcupine Lodge to help skiers access the slope without going through the lodge. We have drawings and Erin is waiting for a cost estimate. Dave Hanna thinks it would cost at least \$8000 for materials, and there was discussion about the type of stair treads needed.

Bruce would like to see better signage in the parking area, Porcupine Lodge, Nordic Entry way. It was suggested that this be a function of the Marketing Department. Some signs are already made and are in the shop ready to be installed when time allows.

The board looked at the Summer Project List in the Manager's Report. Bruce would like to have clocks that are visible as you ski into lift line. He might know someone who would buy them.

As part of Dave's summer work, he will put together a package with all the information about a Mountain Coaster to use as a tool for pursuing it further.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Cabin Status and preliminary rental policy. Schedule Committee Meeting to firm up details.

The bridge to the cabin is in, the road is in, and panels are being built now using donated labor. 25 piers have to be put in for the foundation. A Trails Committee meeting will be scheduled to work on policies, costs, and rental plans. Staff input will be essential to that effort. The cabin should be available by the end of summer or before. Restroom facilities are still a question, and wind direction is a concern for the location. The staff has started to talk about cabin operations and a way to have a live calendar reservation system. The suggested base rate is \$75 per night, and maybe more on weekends.

- b. Approval for Beer and Wine sales for spring Randonee Race Series and Slush Cup end of season events. Stephanie moved to approve beer and wine sales for four spring events. Mike Satre seconded the motion, and it passed with no objections

- c. Locals "Community Day" with Alaska Powder Descents with one ride heli drops on Mt Ben Stuart

APD has approached Dave, proposing to host a community day charging \$50 for one ride, fully guided drops on Mt. Ben Stewart with pickup near the beacon park. Season passholders would get a discount, and the liability would fall on APD. They would probably be able to serve about 50-60 people in a day. There was general consensus that this should not be something that would ever be done more than once or twice a year. Feedback could be collected if we tried it once.

Dave moved to authorize the general manager to move forward with a one-day only experimental trial of Community Day heli drops this spring or next year. Stephanie seconded it. It was unanimously approved.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

Two regular meetings were rescheduled:

The May 2 meeting was moved to April 25 to allow for attendance by Dave at the National Ski Area Association meeting.

The July 4 meeting was moved to July 11th.

Committee meetings were scheduled.

Wednesday March 27: Planning and Policy Committee

Tuesday, April 16th: HR Committee

Wednesday, for April 17th: Trails Committee

Thursday, May 23: Joint Planning/Finance Committee meeting

A Nordic advisory meeting will be scheduled in late April or early May after consulting with JNSC.

10. BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dave wishes he had spent more time skiing, but what he had was very good and he has heard lots of positive feedback. Mike Stanley had no comment in the interest of time and thanked Dave for his hard work. Mike Satre appreciates all of the work by Brian's crew and had kudos for James at the top of Hooter. Megan has heard positive feedback and thanks the staff for a good job. Jon has watched the grooming getting better every time. Stephanie agreed with all of what they said and is also glad to see happy Nordic skiers and to see minutes and agendas posted on the website.

11. ADJOURNMENT – Dave moved and Jon seconded the motion to adjourn, and the meeting ended at 7:17 PM. The next meeting date is April 4th 2019 at 5:30 in room 224 city hall.