

MOUNT SAN JACINTO WINTER PARK AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority held October 16, 2019 at the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Palm Springs, CA.

Authority Members:

Brian Conley
Bary Freet
Sandra Magana-Cuellar – Via Teleconference
Brian Nestande
Jerry Ogburn
Jeff Ohlfs – Via Teleconference
Nancy Stuart

Staff:

Nancy Nichols, General Manager
Jim Whitmore, Executive VP
Marjorie De La Cruz, VP HR & Risk Mgmt.
Tara Meinke, VP Finance
Gary Aberg, VP Technology
Greg Purdy, VP Marketing & Public Affairs

Legal Counsel:

Robert Hargreaves

Guests:

Todd Friedman, MSJSP

CALL TO ORDER – STUART

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL – PURDY

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – FREET

WELCOME OF GUESTS – STUART

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – STUART

Upon Motion by Nestande, seconded by Ogburn and carried, to accept today's agenda. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Nestande-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Ogburn-Aye; Stuart-Aye. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – STUART

Upon Motion by Ogburn, seconded by Conley and carried, to approve meeting minutes dated August 21, 2019. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Abstain; Nestande-Aye; Ogburn-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye. Motion approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT

Meinke asked if the Authority had received and reviewed the financial reports and narrative for August 2019 and September 2019, and asked if there were any questions. Freet inquired about the flood event losses and recovery. De La Cruz reported received almost all funds related to insurance covered losses, which totaled over \$3 million and were waiting for FEMA reimbursements that would cover uninsured losses such as roads and deductibles.

Concessions – No report.

MARKETING REPORT

Sales & Public Relations - Purdy reported attendance was down 27% for September, partly due to extending maintenance shutdown and the dates that Labor Day fell this year. He reported attendance was up 10.3% September 2019 fiscal year-to-date however Labor Day Weekend was down 13%.

Purdy stated staff attended Greater Palm Springs CVB's San Francisco Media Dinner and will be attending the National Tour Association Tradeshow in December. He stated Discovery Channel's "Aaron Needs a Job" and KVCR's broadcast of "Uncovered in the Archives," which Authority Member Magana-Cuellar referred to us, have both aired. Tram Road Challenge will be held October 26 and Tree Lighting December 1, with the media reception in Peaks Restaurant due to the remodel. Stuart commented the Discovery Channel show was wonderful.

Advertising – No report.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Nichols referred to Whitmore who reviewed Minute Order 2019-10 regarding the lower haul rope and recommended its approval.

Upon motion by Freet, seconded by Ogburn and carried, Minute Order 2019-10 authorizing an amount not to exceed \$250,000 to purchase and deliver a new haul rope. Conley–Aye; Freet–Aye; Magana-Cuellar–Aye; Nestande–Aye; Ogburn–Aye; Ohlfs–Aye; Stuart–Aye. Motion approved.

Nichols asked for direction regarding how to handle unsolicited board presentation proposals. Discussion ensued regarding staff reviewing all proposals, proposals under public comments and future agendas.

Legal Counsel advised general manager could send an email to the board to assess individual interest in agendizing a presentation request. Board members could only reply directly back to the general manager with no discussion among individual Authority members. If there was an interest by one or more board members, Nichols would bring the request to the next board meeting for an official consensus on whether or not to proceed. Board Members concurred.

Projects Report – Whitmore stated shut-down projects included tramcar carriage and hanger pin replacement, mandatory training, security training, IT and Operations tasks. He advised although not 100% completed, the new restrooms at the Mountain Station would be available for Thanksgiving Weekend and Phase 2 of the Mountain Station remodel will start on schedule in January 2020.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK REPORT

Friedman discussed ranger station staffing noting medically-trained lifeguards have been assigned for the winter months. Not sure when new ranger would be hired, as it depended upon transfer requests and completion of academy training.

GENERAL MANAGER CONTRACT

Upon motion by Conley, seconded by Ogburn and carried, to approve first amendment to general manager contract. Conley–Aye; Freet–Aye; Magana-Cuellar–Aye; Nestande–Aye; Ogburn–Aye; Ohlfs–Aye; Stuart–Aye. Motion approved.

AUTHORITY MEMBER COMMENTS

Freet stated had attended the California Special Districts Association and relayed some issues of interest to the general manager, namely about website ADA compliance and drone operations. Discussion ensued.

Conley stated while in Washington D.C, met with ten congress people and all were aware of the Tram and the many wonderful things it offers. He invited the board to attend a reception he will host for State Controller Betty Yee in Big Bear on November 1.

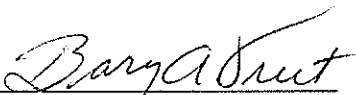
Ogburn stated was meeting with CVAG staff regarding the CV Link project and Sunline Transit regarding shuttle service and how they might interact with the Tramway. Nichols will schedule a Chino Cone Ad Hoc Committee meeting to discuss and will report at the January meeting.

Ohlfs thanked staff for the work during shutdown. He stated would like to quantify the walkers on Tram Way and felt walkers should somehow be represented in our total visitation numbers.

Stuart would like to thank the staff for the shutdown work. She stated had recently arranged to celebrate her husband's 80th birthday at the Tram and it was amazing: food, staff and everything. She knows the Tram does a wonderful job with special events and was looking forward to seeing everyone at tree lighting on December 1.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.


(Attest: Secretary)