

MOUNT SAN JACINTO WINTER PARK AUTHORITY

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority held June 17, 2020 via teleconference at the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Palm Springs, CA.

Authority Members:

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

Staff: All Via Teleconference

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

Absent:

None

Guests: All Via Teleconference

John Fritch, Elevated Experiences
Kelly Elliott, MSJSP
Kyle Radke, The Jones Agency

Legal Counsel:

Robert Hargreaves – Via Teleconference

CALL TO ORDER – NESTANDE

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

ROLL CALL – PURDY

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments submitted to the Authority Clerk by 9:00 a.m. to be read into the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NESTANDE

Upon Motion by Ohlfs, seconded by Conley and carried, to approve meeting minutes dated May 20, 2020. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Nestande-Aye; Ogburn-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye. Motion approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT

Meinke reviewed the May 2020 financial statements and stated that ridership for May 2020 year-to-date was down. She then reviewed cash and investments including reserve balances with

projections through July 2020. Discussion ensued regarding projected reopening revenues, maintenance shutdown costs, and potential bond issuance to help preserve cash and staffing.

Concessions – Fritch reported that would start slow when reopening. It would be grab-n-go only at the beginning, then perhaps Peaks will open. Personal protection equipment is in place. He stated kitchen looked great and he would keep an eye on ridership to determine food and beverage demand.

MARKETING REPORT

Sales & Public Relations - Purdy reported that May 2020 year-to-date attendance was 19.8% less than last year-to-date. Groups May 2020 year-to-date revenue was 6% less than last year-to-date. 41 groups were cancelled in May due to the Covid closure. Purdy reviewed sales staff projects, additional duties relating to construction and new Covid protocols.

Advertising – No Report

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Nichols presented Minute Order 2020-12 with the explanation that about 50% of our employees are already back to work and the rest will be brought back for Covid-protocol training and additional cleaning. Discussion ensued about reopening permissions, new procedures and possible liability issues.

Upon motion by Freet, seconded by Stuart and carried, Minute Order 2020-12 to approve the extension of Wages and Benefits due to the closure of the Tramway because of the COVID-19 virus through July 2020 or any part thereof that the Tramway remains closed, for an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Nestande-Aye; Ogburn-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye. Motion approved.

Nichols discussed Resolution 2020-5 regarding new CEQA guidelines sent last month and asked if any questions. Hearing none she recommended its approval.

Upon motion by Ohlfs, seconded by Stuart and carried, to approve Resolution 2020-5 amending and adopting local guidelines for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Nestande-Aye; Ogburn-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye. Resolution approved.

Meinke explained Resolution 2020-7 and that we want to be prepared and have appropriate administrative action completed for when we are ready to go out for new bonds to reimburse current and recent project costs.

Upon motion by Conley, seconded by Nestande and carried, to approve Resolution 2020-7 declaring the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority's intent to issue tax-exempt bonds to be used to reimburse the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority for expenditures prior to the issuance of such bonds. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Nestande-Aye; Ogburn-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye. Resolution approved.

Project Reports - Whitmore reported the upgrade of Mountain Station was proceeding. Kitchen was nearly completed, as was the food line of Pines Café. He stated Pines and Peaks should be ready for use by the time we reopen. Personnel are mostly back with modified hours for training and reopening tasks. We will reopen with the same hours as regular winter schedule, but capacity of tram car will be limited to 20 passengers. Face masks will be required on the tram cars and the windows will remain open for constant airflow. Will have enhanced cleaning and disinfecting—especially frequently-touched areas—and hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout both stations. The modifications to the Valley Station wastewater system have been submitted to the City for permitting. Preliminary underground inspections have taken place of the equalization tanks. The 90% completion design for the Mountain Station wastewater treatment system has been approved by the Water Quality Control Board and has been submitted to State Parks. The Maintenance Department has been getting the equipment and materials ready for the cable change as soon as we are able to do it.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK REPORT

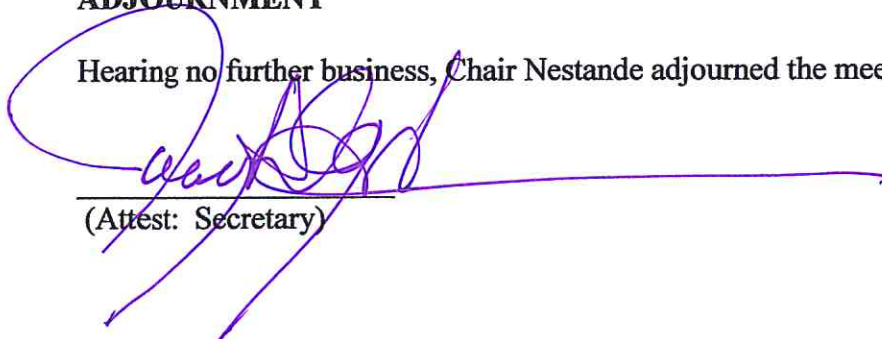
Elliott said that the parks are reopening slowly. Campgrounds will be 100% open by June 22. They are being careful to advise campers that the tram is not yet open. They have been opening day-use areas little-by-little and the demand was certainly there. They are looking forward to an almost-regular summer. She will continue to work with Nancy Nichols to ensure website messaging is accurate. Discussion ensued regarding camping protocols especially regarding equipment being transported on the tram cars.

AUTHORITY COMMENTS

Freet inquired about using the mobile app to communicate new Tramway protocols. Purdy replied that he was currently working on those additions and, once we have a firm reopening date, they will be added to approximately four screens on the app. Ohlfs commended Tram staff on all their efforts to get reopened. He also asked about the advertising plan for reopening? Purdy discussed the various platforms and the approximate roll-out sequence. Stuart complimented the social media messaging and that the reader comments are encouraging. She mentioned that Palm Springs and Big Bear are listed as Top 10 cities for Airbnb bookings, as these are drive destinations, which is encouraging for future Tram attendance. Conley commented how important it was that we enforce the mask-wearing policy when we reopen. Nichols stated that this is a priority and explained our various channels for communicating this requirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Nestande adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.



(Attest: Secretary)