

MOUNT SAN JACINTO WINTER PARK AUTHORITY

Minutes of the special meeting of the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority held July 9, 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

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

Nichols requested adding Minute Order 2020-14 as Agenda item 5.B.2 as an item which arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

Upon Motion by Ogburn as amended, seconded by Stuart 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT

Meinke stated that it was too early in the month to review June financials, but she did have current cash and investments balances ready to present. In addition, estimated cash and investments balances were reviewed through June 2021. There were no unexpected changes since the prior month's report, but she explained that it is still recommended that we continue moving forward with a bond issuance to reimburse us for the capital projects in the coming year.

Meinke then reviewed the next two months' estimated cash and investments balances. June financials will be forthcoming showing year-end numbers.

Meinke explained that there is an active market for our bonds and Minute Order 2020-13 is to approve our bond consultant to take us through phase 1, which is a discovery phase to see what options we may have. Discussion followed regarding additional costs associated with bond issuance.

Upon motion by Ogburn, seconded by Nestande and carried, Minute Order 2020-13 to approve the acceptance of the proposal from Columbia Capital Management for bond financial advisory services to determine viable bond financing options for the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for Phase 1 and authorizing the General Manager to execute said agreement. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Nestande-Aye; Ogburn-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye. Motion approved.

De La Cruz reported that we have obtained final declarations for two of our three FEMA claims from last year's flood. We anticipate receiving \$403,526 within the next week for those. We are also expecting reimbursement for the tower bolt replacement in the amount of \$44,618. Additionally, we are expecting possible reimbursement information on Covid-related expenses soon.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Nichols reported that, due to the extended Covid-closure, we will be moving our annual maintenance from September to August. She reviewed status of required parts and equipment.

Nichols recommended that we extend staff pay through August with minimal staff on site (during August) except for Maintenance, as a health safety precaution during critical maintenance projects. Therefore, she asked for approval of Minute Order 2020-14. If approved, we would then meet and confer with the union to prepare for possible staff furloughs should we not be able to reopen by September 1.

Upon motion by Ohlfs, seconded by Conley and carried, Minute Order 2020-14 to approve the extension of Wages and Benefits due to the closure of the Tramway because of the COVID-19 virus through August 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 reported that the State Park agreement renews November 2021 and BB&K has already reviewed most of the wording of the new agreement. We now need to have a sub-committee review the agreement with their comments, opinions and approval before it goes to State Parks. Authority Members Conley, Ohlfs and Stuart have stated their interest in serving on that committee or you may nominate who you wish. Nichols requested a motion to approve the appointments to the subcommittee

Upon motion by Nestande, seconded by Ogburn and carried, to nominate Brian Conley, Nancy Stuart and Jeff Ohlfs to serve as a State Parks agreement renewal sub-committee. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Nestande-Aye; Ogburn-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye. Motion approved.

AUTHORITY COMMENTS

Nestande expressed his thanks to Nichols and the Tram staff during this difficult time.

Nichols expressed her thanks to the board for the extension of employee pay and benefits, and how much they appreciate it. Also, Authority Member Conley visited yesterday to review construction progress and she invited any other authority member to do the same any time before the Tram stops running in three weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Nestande adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.



(Attest: Secretary)