

## **MOUNT SAN JACINTO WINTER PARK AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority held July 21, 2021 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  
Jeff Ohlfs - Via Teleconference  
Nancy Stuart – Via Teleconference

### **Staff: All Via Teleconference**

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

### **Absent:**

Brian Nestande  
Jerry Ogburn

### **Guests: All Via Teleconference**

Kelly Elliott, MSJSP  
Mike Dippel, MSJSP  
Kyle Radke, The Jones Agency

### **Legal Counsel:**

Robert Hargreaves – Via Teleconference

## **CALL TO ORDER – FREET**

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

## **ROLL CALL – PURDY**

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – FREET**

**Upon Motion by Magana-Cuellar, seconded by Stuart and carried, to accept today's agenda. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-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 – FREET**

**Upon Motion by Ohlfs, seconded by Conley and carried, to approve meeting minutes dated April 21, 2021. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-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 April, May and June 2021, and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none she reported that Tram had positive income from operations in May 2021 and June 2021 of approximately \$100,000 for each month. She reviewed the breakdown of cash and investments for June 2021. Discussion ensued about State Park agreement and recent financing. Ohlfs stated he might have an opportunity to meet with the State Park Director in the next month. After discussion by Elliott and Nichols, Freet suggested providing a talking points letter to Ohlfs to facilitate his discussion with the director. Staff would provide.

*Concessions* – Fritch reported on construction status of Mountain Station food and beverage facilities, along with final permitting. He provided updates on opening plans and staffing challenges.

### MARKETING REPORT

*Sales & Public Relations* - Purdy reported June 2021 attendance was 29,431 compared to minus 640 for June 2020 (due to refunds). Purdy reviewed zip code reports for the fourth quarter, the Tram's brochure distribution program and recent celebrity guests. Purdy stated would be in touch with the Ad Committee about scheduling a meeting for late summer or early-fall.

*Advertising* – Radke reported that she looks forward to the Ad Committee meeting. Advertising remains at a minimum with long-term contracts.

### GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Nichols reported on the renewal of the Elevated Experiences contract through June 2026. She stated the next Authority meeting was August 18, 2021 and would reach out to determine member availability for that date.

Whitmore reviewed and recommended approval of Minute Order 2021-4 regarding the purchase and installation of a new compressor for the multi-stack chiller at the Valley Station.

**Upon motion by Ohlfs, seconded by Conley and carried, Minute Order 2021-4 authorizing an amount not to exceed \$10,545.00 and that this amount be added to this year's capital project budget for the purchase and installation of a compressor for the multi-stack chiller at the Valley Station. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye. Motion approved.**

Whitmore reviewed and recommended approval of Minute Order 2021-5 regarding the repair and purchase of the hydraulic cylinder for service brake #2.

**Upon motion by Stuart, seconded by Conley and carried, Minute Order 2021-5 authorizing an amount not to exceed \$10,253.85 and that this amount be added to this year's capital project budget for the purchase and repair of the hydraulic cylinder for service brake #2.**

Whitmore reviewed and recommended approval of Minute Order 2021-6 regarding a new transformer and back-up generator at the Mountain Station for the wastewater treatment facility.

**Upon motion by Conley, seconded by Magana-Cuellar and carried, Minute Order 2021-6 authorizing an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00 for the new three-phase, 480-volt line and generator and that this amount be added to the cost of the Mountain Station Waste Water Treatment Facility. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye. Motion approved.**

*Projects Report* – Whitmore stated the Mountain Station remodel project was moving into Phase 5 and the Valley Station wastewater treatment facility was operational. He reported Mountain Station Waste Water equipment purchased with final plans awaiting approval by State Parks Southern California Service Center and the State Fire Marshall before construction can proceed. Demolition began on the existing system and overnight hauling of wastewater has commenced. Whitmore reviewed current tramcar schedule, capacity and mask requirements. He reported haul rope shortened, which is periodically necessary due to stretching; added handrails next to the creek in Popp Park, as a safety measure due to increased use of the area and reviewed shutdown plans.

Discussion ensued on a grand opening event upon completion of the Mountain Station remodel along with a board subcommittee to assist in planning, as has been past practice. Ohlfs asked if the repair of the Long Valley sidewalk handrail had been repaired and Purdy stated would verify. Freet questioned if there was a need to haul away any Valley Station wastewater affluent, Whitmore stated it had not been needed so far. Freet questioned shutdown dates, Nichols stated September 7 through October 3. Elliott asked if the surface of the Long Valley concrete ramp would be different, Nichols stated there would be internal discussion and would advise. Elliott suggested that we invite the new State Parks director for the grand opening event.

#### CALIFORNIA STATE PARK REPORT

Elliott introduced new District Superintendent Mike Dippel. She stated he replaced Mark Hudgens as superintendent for Mt. San Jacinto State Park and would oversee public safety operations in the Inland Empire District. Dippel reviewed upcoming filming on August 11 and reported that the 8,000-Meter Challenge event would be held on September 2, which would include overnight camping by participants.

Freet asked to amend agenda so Authority Member comments could precede Closed Session. No objections were made, so the agenda order was changed.

#### **AUTHORITY MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ohlfs thanked Tram staff and State Parks for supporting San Bernardino Sheriffs and Morongo Basin Search and Rescue Teams, whose volunteers conducted their June training in the State Park. They are not accustomed to high-altitude training, so it was very useful. In addition, a reminder about World Ranger Day on July 31 when we thank local, county, state and federal park rangers for everything they do for us. Conley would like to have a report on recent information technology issues at the Tram and if the Tram might benefit from the infrastructure bill. Nichols reported on status of latter and that we would continue to investigate infrastructure bill for funding opportunities. Conley would like information prior to his D.C. visit occurring the

eventually affect our Tram visitors. Freet asked about staffing challenges and Nichols reported three security officer positions remain unfilled.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

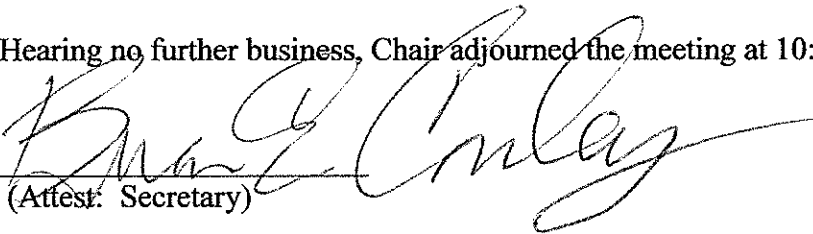
Chair adjourned regular meeting at 10:22 a.m. to reconvene in Closed Session, Item 9. Anticipated Litigation under GC 54956.9 (d) (4).

### **CLOSED SESSION ITEMS (if any)**

Chair reconvened regular meeting at 10:47 a.m. There were no reportable actions.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business, Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

  
(Attest: Secretary)