

MOUNT SAN JACINTO WINTER PARK AUTHORITY

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority held August 17, 2022 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
Jerry Ogburn – Via Teleconference
(joined at 9:55 a.m.)
Jeff Ohlfs – Via Teleconference
Brian Nestande – Via Teleconference
Nancy Stuart – Via Teleconference

Absent: None

Legal Counsel:

Robert Hargreaves – 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

Guests: All Via Teleconference

John Fritch, Elevated Experiences
Frank Jones, The Jones Agency

CALL TO ORDER – CONLEY

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

ROLL CALL – PURDY

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – CONLEY

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

Upon Motion by Stuart, seconded by Ohlfs and carried, to approve meeting minutes dated June 29, 2022. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Abstain; Nestande-Abstain; 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 June 2022, and asked if there were any questions. July 2022 financials are delayed due to health issues in the department. The Tramway finished the fiscal year with approximately \$6.5 million income from operations, compared to a budgeted \$1.5 million.

Concessions – Fritch reported that July 2022 saw \$577,840 in total food and beverage sales. Working on a fall and winter menu. A new sous chef has been hired and looking for a few more front-of-house personnel. Freet asked about hours and Fritch confirmed that they were fully open at regular hours.

MARKETING REPORT

Sales & Public Relations – Purdy reported that July attendance was 9% over budget and 21% more than July 2021. Group business is growing with \$59,720 in sales for July, which is below 2019 totals, but more than 2021. The voucher program was restarted in July, so that will be positively impacting group numbers moving forward. In July, both Military Days and Alpine Club Days were restarted, which will rebuild in coming years. Purdy reported that web traffic for FY '21/'22 was up compared to both FY '18/'19 and FY '19/'20. Purdy also provided analysis of media coverage from the flood event and how it became part of a larger media narrative in how extreme storms were affecting Southern California tourism destinations.

Advertising – Frank Jones reported that they have now done 17 variations of the new campaign including two new billboards. Now working on ads for Road Challenge and Snow Guessing Contest, and scheduling a new photo/video shoot.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Nichols reviewed CEQA guidelines and recommended Resolution 2022-3 be approved.

Upon Motion by Stuart, seconded by Ohlfs and carried, Resolutions 2022-3 amending and adopting local guidelines for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code §§ 21000 Et Seq.) was approved. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Nestande-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye; Motion approved.

Nichols reviewed Minute Order 2021-8 and recommended its approval.

Upon motion by Nestande, seconded by Magana-Cuellar and carried, to approve Minute Order 2022-8 authorizing the general manager to approve contracts during the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway annual maintenance shutdown September 2022 and report at the October 19, 2022 board meeting. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Nestande-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye. Motion approved.

Nichols reported that, in January, the board appointed three members for either a grand opening or a 60th anniversary committee and, in discussion with the committee, decided that the focus would be on the anniversary event. The Tram always does something for the public in

September, so we would ask the committee for their suggestions and directions. With the board's consent, the committee will officially be the 60th Anniversary Committee and will convene a meeting no later than October to start planning this event.

Projects Report – Whitmore played a video of the August flood event and reported on the scope of damage and subsequent clean-up efforts. Desert Water Agency is currently repairing the holding pond. The electrical to the new mountain waste water treatment facility is complete, but not yet turned on. The pump for the sequencing batch reactor is being installed and the emergency generator for the system has been completed. The fire marshal has approved all electrical to this point. The approval of the generator will occur during shutdown. Initiation of the system should begin in August with clean water and full operation after shutdown. Mountain Station remodel is down to a final few items and the State Fire Marshall inspection has been completed. Replacement air handler, however, will not be delivered until November due to supply chain issues. State Park inspectors have signed off on the 100% completion of the project.

Ohlfs asked if there are any measures we can take to mediate future flood events? Nichols said we would discuss further with Desert Water Agency, but—in the short term—our crew will install some curbs and blocks to keep water away from our dock area.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK REPORT

No report this month.

AUTHORITY MEMBER COMMENTS

Freet asked who will incur the expense of the holding pond reconstruction? Whitmore explained that DWA is responsible for the ponds, but we are responsible for the reconstruction of the road going to Tower 1. Ohlfs expressed his appreciation to the Tramway staff for getting us back open so quickly. Conley will be in D.C. in September and, if there are any issues, he would be happy to meet with Congressional staff during that time. Nichols will ask Townsend, as well, in her upcoming meeting with them on Mr. Conley's behalf.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair adjourned regular meeting at 10:00 a.m. to reconvene in Closed Session, Item 10.A Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation under GC 54956.9 (d) (4) Number of potential cases: 1; 10.B Represented and unrepresented employees – Conference with Labor Negotiators under GC 54957.6; and 10.C General Manager – Public Employment under GC 54957.

CLOSED SESSION ACTION ITEMS

Chair reconvened regular meeting at 10:05 a.m.

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

Upon Motion by Ohlfs, seconded by Ogburn and carried, Resolutions 2022-4 awarding eligible employees a retention and recognition bonus was approved. Conley-Aye; Freet-Aye; Magana-Cuellar-Aye; Nestande-Aye; Ogburn-Aye; Ohlfs-Aye; Stuart-Aye; Motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

M. Jeff Oehl
(Attest: Secretary)