

MOUNT SAN JACINTO WINTER PARK AUTHORITY

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority held February 16, 2016 at the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Palm Springs, CA.

Authority Members

Bary Freet
Jerry Ogburn
Jan Oliphant
Nancy Stuart

Staff

Rob W. Parkins, President
Jim Whitmore, Executive VP
Nancy Nichols, VP Sales & Marketing
Tara Meinke, VP Finance
Greg Purdy, Public Affairs Manager

Absent:

John Wessman
Jon Sheinberg

Guests:

Todd Friedman, MSJSP
John Fritch, Aramark
Jim Stuart, Guest
Craig Tyerman, Tram Employee

Legal Counsel:

Robert Hargreaves

CALL TO ORDER – FREET

Meeting called to order at 9:37 a.m.

ROLL CALL – NICHOLS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - OGBURN

WELCOME OF GUESTS – FREET

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – FREET

Upon Motion by Oliphant, seconded by Stuart and carried, to approve today's agenda, was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FREET

Upon Motion by Oliphant, seconded by Stuart and carried, the meeting minutes dated January 19, 2016, were unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION TO PAST CHAIR - PARKINS

Parkins presented Jan Oliphant, 2015 Chair, with a gift and thanked her for her service to the Authority. Oliphant thanked the Authority.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE

Meinke asked if the Authority had received and reviewed the financial reports and narrative for January 2016 and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Financial Narrative Report January - Ridership for the month of January 2016 was 20,188 more than budgeted, and was 7,923 more than January 2015. Year-to-date ridership was 80,453 more than budgeted, and was 18,278 more than January 2015 year-to-date.

Total revenue for the month of January 2016 was more than budgeted by \$552,965 and was \$321,655 more than January 2015. Year-to-date revenues were more than budget by \$2,405,704 and were \$1,192,617 more than January 2015 year-to-date.

Operating expenses for the month of January 2016 were less than budget by \$11,648, and were \$36,181 more than January 2015. Year-to-date operating expenses were \$497,414 under budget and were \$232,577 more than January 2015 year-to-date. Increased Wages and Benefits, Utilities, Maintenance Agreements, Insurance, Miscellaneous Expenses, Building Improvements/FF&E, Advertising, and Printing are the main reasons why the current year to date operating expenses exceeded prior year to date.

Net income for the month of January 2016 was more than budget by \$566,819 and was \$211,962 more than January 2015. Year-to-date net income was more than budgeted by \$2,915,541 and \$443,678 more than January 2015 year-to-date.

Concessions – Fritch reported sales for the month of January 2016 were \$65,000 more than January 2015 and February 2016 sales were already \$40,000 more than February 2015. Pines and Cascade Café had the majority of the sales because of the holidays.

Discussion followed on offering more selections and Valentine's Day.

MARKETING REPORT

Nichols stated the Sales, Marketing and Public Affairs report had been sent to the Authority and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none she continued with her report.

Nichols reported for January 2016 visitor attendance was 63,979 which was a 53-year record for monthly attendance. This was 7,923 more than January 2015. January 2016 year-to-date attendance was 32% more than budgeted and 6% more than January 2015 year-to-date.

Nichols reported group sales for January 2016 were \$101,017 compared to \$73,592 in January 2015 and year-to-date group sales were \$553,303 which was \$46,413 more than January 2015 year-to-date.

She reported ticket sales for New Year's Day Ride 'n' Dine were 358 compared to 282 in 2015 and Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend had 10,017 visitors compared to 8,173 in 2015.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Gateway Project - Parkins deferred to Ogburn.

Ogburn reviewed a proposed project located at Tram Way and Highway 111 entitled Mt. San Jacinto Scenic Wilderness Reserve and the Northern Gateway to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. He stated the project would enhance the entire Tram experience from the bottom of Tram Way to the Valley Station. He recommended the Authority endorse the project and begin the process of obtaining the City of Palm Springs involvement as lead agency.

Upon Motion by Stuart, seconded by Oliphant and carried, to create a sub-committee to contact the City of Palm Springs to discuss this project, was unanimously approved.

Chair appointed Authority Members Ogburn and Stuart to the sub-committee.

Projects Report – Whitmore reported the parking project has been operational since July 2015 and was functioning well even during the busy holidays. The Zip Line CEQA had been completed and he had met with the parties that had objected to the project. The outcome was that a consortium needed to be formed for land use planning on the Chino Cone. At this time he has been unable to generate interest in a coordinated effort to do a cone-wide plan. Materials were being put together for the CEQA for the Tree House project. The HillTrac feasibility study was side tracked for a period but was presently in staff review and feasibility phase. Initial estimates due to time delays and the need for an emergency evacuation system are at \$4 Million, double the amount of the original plan. Tramway Improvements would begin at the Mountain Station, once the drawings are approved and permitted. The first part of the refurbishment would begin with the infrastructure. Additional cameras were being planned for security and the fresh water and fire suppression projects had been completed.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Friedman reported the new interpretive ranger had been hired and would start March 2nd. State Parks was in the process of installing a trail counter in Long Valley.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair adjourned the regular meeting at 10:45 am for a 5-minute break to reconvene in Closed Session, Item 10: A. Conference with Real Property Negotiators, GC 54956.8; B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, GC 54956.9; and C. Public Employee Performance Evaluation, GC 54957.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS (IF ANY)

Chair reconvened the regular meeting at 11:35 am. There were no reportable actions.

AUTHORITY MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:26 am.



(Attest: Secretary)