



NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
Board Meeting
August 7, 2020

Present:

Kelly Cummings, Chair
William Beaney
Clifford Donaldson
Steven Hunt, ESD
Thomas Keegan
Senator Betty Little
Arthur Lussi
Andrew Lack
Diane Munro
Christopher Pushkarsh, OPRHP
Jeffrey Stefanko, DEC
Elinor Tatum

Also Present:

Michael Pratt, President/CEO
Michelle Crew, General Counsel

Introduction:

Chairperson Kelly Cummings called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Ms. Cummings introduced herself as the new Board Chair and highlighted her long history with ORDA. This includes direct involvement with several capital projects, her attendance at major ORDA events, and being an avid skater, skier, and hiker. Ms. Cummings emphasized ORDA's year-round importance to the upstate economy and how the transformational improvements, which have spanned lifts, lodge, and snowmaking upgrades, and the addition of the mountain coaster and zip line, contribute to those goals.

Ms. Cummings then introduced new board member and long-time N.Y.S. Senator Betty Little as a "true champion of the North Country." Senator Little also shares extensive experience with ORDA, and said she was excited and honored about the role. She said that Gore Mountain is an economic engine to Warren County, and that this was a wonderful time to be joining the Board.

Elinor Tatum is the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of the NY Amsterdam News who serves on the N.Y.S. Tourism Advisory Council and is a ski instructor at Belleayre Mountain. Ms. Tatum discussed how excited she is about the energy and possibilities around ORDA, and that she was very happy to be in the new Board Member role.

Diane Munro's leadership experience includes her position as Vice Chair on the Coalition for Belleayre Mountain. Ms. Munro said the timing is perfect to maximize ORDA's economic



results, and she emphasized the importance of venue teamwork in accomplishing economic goals.

Thomas Keegan is an entrepreneur in the Hudson Valley; he said that he is excited about the opportunity to join the ORDA board. Mr. Keegan said that he was looking forward to learning more about ORDA, and that Belleayre and Whiteface Mountains have both been an important part of his and his family's experiences.

Ms. Cummings extended her appreciation and acknowledgement to former Board members Jill Broderick and John Parete, and she noted that ORDA had many successes during their tenures.

Ms. Cummings then asked for a roll call, and all members were confirmed as being present. Ms. Cummings explained that the meeting was being videotaped and the recording would be made available on www.orda.org.

Minutes:

On a motion by Mr. Lussi, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on June 30, 2020 were approved without changes.

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

President's Report:

Mr. Pratt reminded everyone that 887 days remained until the Opening Ceremony of the World University Games. He emphasized that ORDA has remained very busy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, improving and opening venues while getting season passes on sale.

In an update of all venue operations, Mr. Pratt reported that the Whiteface Cloudsplitter Gondola has opened with beautiful new cabins. There was a temporary closure of the Veteran's Memorial Highway due to damage from Hurricane Isaias. The zip lines at the Ski Jumps have been well received and complement the existing gondola and elevator attractions nicely. Gore is open with scenic rides, downhill biking, and hiking. Belleayre Beach opened in early June and its scenic gondola rides have also been successful. Cross-country biking at Mt. Van Hoevenberg is available along with the Museum, and figure skating at the Olympic Center. The ski mountains and Mt. Van Hoevenberg have all been welcoming hikers as well.

The variety of projects throughout the ORDA venues are progressing nicely. At Mt. Van Hoevenberg, these include 5k more trails with snowmaking, an updated stadium for biathlon, the new lodge and its indoor bobsled training facility, and the mountain coaster. Bridge work will allow recreational access to trails during large competitions.

At Belleayre the third floor of the Discovery Lodge will provide additional guest space, and work at the new pump house for snowmaking is underway. This work includes modernizing the electrical infrastructure for improved energy efficiency.



Two lift replacements at Gore Mountain are in progress, as well as a new intake structure at the reservoir which will allow the venue to fully utilize its snowmaking capacity.

Pump house improvements will also allow for full snowmaking capacity at Whiteface Mountain. The Bear Den Lift is progressing along with the Mid Station Lodge. The new and larger lodge will feature beautiful views, more bathrooms, and improved access and experience for all guests. The Roundhouse roof system replacement is underway. Given that work occurs at a location that has an average annual temperature of 32 degrees, teams are working with a short construction window.

A recent Economic Impact Analysis showed that ORDA's annual economic impact has grown over the last three years by 75%, from \$156 million to \$273.6 million. This indicates the positive results that recent investments have generated. The study also determined that ORDA provides a \$22.3 million tax revenue impact.

Despite event cancellations due to COVID-19, the calendar remains full and procedures are being planned in cooperation with the elite sports organizations to keep the future schedule as intact as possible and operate events to current health and safety requirements.

The Training Center is presently open, housing athletes across a variety of high-level sports. The double-size rooms are presently utilized for single occupancy housing.

New Business:

Resolutions:

#391 Resolution Committing Capital and Granting Conditional Approval for the President & CEO to Enter into an Amended Agreement for the Olympic Sports Complex – Transformation Projects Site Work

On a motion by Mr. Beaney, seconded by Mr. Donaldson.

Mr. Pratt explained that this resolution is associated with some changes that have occurred since the construction planning for Mt. Van Hoevenberg in 2018. These include an extension of the bridges over wetland areas, updated specifications for the wells, and necessary alterations for the biathlon range. The resolution also includes electric car charging stations that are funded in part with a NYSERDA grant.

Mr. Pratt explained the interesting history of Mt. Van Hoevenberg and that the new lodge is intended to be named the Mountain Pass Lodge. This name uniquely encompasses all of the multi-sport aspects of the venue, including hiking, skiing, biking, competition, and spectator access.



The 1932 bobsled track featured the famous “Cliffside Corner,” so the new Cliffside Coaster will highlight that piece of history as it follows the entire alignment of the 1980 track.

All in favor, motion carries unanimously, adopted Resolution #391.

#392 Resolution Committing Capital and Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter into an Agreement for the Olympic Training Center Roof and Masonry Repairs

On a motion by Ms. Munro, seconded by Mr. Donaldson.

Mr. Pratt explained that some of the roof and masonry repairs and replacements are becoming liabilities and are necessary to maintain the integrity of the building. Mr. Pratt said that conceptual planning for other improvements to the Training Center have been underway and can be brought before the board in the future.

All in favor, motion carries unanimously, adopted Resolution #392.

Chair:

Ms. Cummings concluded the day’s business, reminding the Board of the various trainings available. She announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 18, 2020 at 1:00pm. (Note: This date was later updated to Friday, September 25, 2020 at 1:00pm.)

Arthur Lussi asked about updates as to how preparations are progressing for the World University Games. He suggested that the schedules of events could indicate which ones are helpful in preparing for the Games, and then it could be better identified where energy should be focused.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Beaney, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, the meeting of the Olympic Development Authority Board of Directors was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.