



NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 25, 2020

Present:

Kelly Cummings, Chair  
William Beaney  
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 1:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Ms. Cummings announced that she and some of the board members had toured the improvements at Mt. Van Hoevenberg and ridden the new mountain coaster. She also recognized the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Senator Little.

Ms. Cummings then asked for a roll call, and confirmed a quorum was present. Ms. Cummings explained that the meeting was being videotaped and the recording would be made available on [www.orda.org](http://www.orda.org).

Minutes:

On a motion by Mr. Lussi, seconded by Mr. Beaney, the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on August 7, 2020 were approved without changes.

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

President's Report:

Mr. Pratt emphasized the excitement around the progress at Mt. Van Hoevenberg, as the venue continues improving to be a year-round asset for recreational visitors and athletes. Updates there continue in several areas including the lodge, bridges, stadium, and mountain coaster.

Other venue improvements include the pump house project at Belleayre, new lifts and reservoir work at Gore Mountain, pump house upgrades, lift installations, the Midstation Lodge construction at Whiteface, and the Roundhouse roofing work at the Veteran's Memorial Highway.



Mr. Pratt also provided an overview of the Olympic Training Center. He said the facility is operated by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), who provide a range of services there across several sports year-round. The Training Center is one of just two in the country, and specialty areas of sports medicine, sports psychology, training and recovery services, and nutritional planning are among industries involved in the Center's deliverables. The economic impact of these efforts benefits the entire region. Lake Placid Sports Medicine is the Official Orthopedic Medicine Provider for the Training Center. Prior to the pandemic, the facility also offered visitor tours to add to the public experience. The land allocated to the Training Center provides opportunities for possible future expansion.

Ms. Little commented that the Training Center is economically important to the region and attracts athletes to the area and the ORDA venues. Ms. Munro commented that keeping the awareness and conversation about the Training Center was positive. Mr. Pratt reinforced this by noting that over 51% of the United States athletes at the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics had trained in Lake Placid.

Mr. Beaney asked for an update about the Olympic Center. Mr. Pratt explained that the design development was progressing very well, and the 1932 and 1980 rink modernizations were out to bid. Mike expects to have more information at the October meeting, and a preliminary schedule targets refrigeration work in November, March for the oval, and April for the Link Building.

Mr. Lack inquired about the upcoming experience at the mountains under current COVID-19 protocols. Mr. Pratt explained that NYS would be issuing guidances for the ski areas, and after that occurs ORDA would publish more information. He explained that the venues have been successfully operating through the summer/fall seasons, and that significant planning for winter has taken place. Mr. Lussi, Ms. Cummings, and Ms. Munro all emphasized the importance of public awareness that the venues have been open, which has offered ORDA experience operating under the current situation. Mr. Pratt explained density controls such as increasing outdoor seating, reconfiguring dropoff zones, creating one-way traffic patterns indoors, and loading lifts were all examples of planning in progress. Best management practices were being shared in an upcoming "Snow Summit" meeting that the venues join virtually, as the emphasis will be on safety for all guests and staff. Mr. Lussi noted how fortunate ORDA is given the recent improvements which have increased capacity to lifts and lodges. Ms. Tatum asked about any restrictions that might be applied during early season or for reservations, and Mr. Pratt explained that the guidances would provide direction for this. He also noted that technology such as RFID gates and direct-to-lift ticketing already in place would help facilitate this if necessary.

Ms. Cummings then stated that the meeting would pause for a brief break while the board moves into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing proposals for the Mount Van Hoevenberg food and beverage concession license.



Executive Session: The board moved into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the proposals submitted for the Mt. Van Hoevenberg concessions license. There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Public Discussion: On the record after regular session resumed, Ms. Cummings announced that no action had taken place during the executive session and that the board had heard from the President & CEO and the Vice-President of Operations about two proposals being considered following the bid process for the Mt. Van Hoevenberg concession contract.

New Business:

**Resolutions:**

**#393** Resolution Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into an Agreement for Food and Beverage Concessionaire Services at Mt. Van Hoevenberg

On a motion by Ms. Tatum, seconded by Ms. Munro.

All in favor, motion carries unanimously, adopted Resolution #393.

**#394** Resolution Committing Capital and Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into Agreements for ORDA 2020-2021 Insurance for Comprehensive General Liability, Umbrella, Property, Equipment Breakdown, Crime, and Auto

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

Ms. Cummings explained that the Executive Committee held a meeting to review ORDA's insurance broker's process which included obtaining the best available quotes and competitively pricing the policies in the market for ORDA's unique needs. The resolution includes all of the above annual policies, which together total \$1,511,070. Mr. Pratt explained some of the challenges within the property insurance market, which has been struggling with recent natural disasters. He also noted the fire at Whiteface's Midstation Lodge. The value of ORDA's coverages has increased by \$211 million over last year due to revaluations and several recent improvements throughout the organization.

All in favor, motion carries unanimously, adopted Resolution #394.

**#395.** Resolution Approving and Adopting a Delegation of Authority Policy for the President & CEO Pursuant to Public Authorities Law § 2611

Ms. Cummings noted that this resolution would be tabled and possibly considered at a future meeting.



**#396.** Resolution Approving and Adopting a Charter for the ORDA Executive Committee

On a motion by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. Lussi.

Ms. Cummings noted that the Executive Committee has not had a charter to date. This is needed as it explains the makeup, powers, and responsibility of the committee. Ms. Crew noted that the charter was developed based on the bylaws, and that other charters were used as a model.

All in favor, motion carries unanimously, adopted Resolution #394.

**Chair:**

Ms. Cummings announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 30, 2020 at 1:00pm.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Mr. Lack, seconded by Mr. Lussi , the meeting of the Olympic Development Authority Board of Directors was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.