



**NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2022**

Present: Joe Martens, Chair
Stephen Hunt, ESD
Betty Little
Arthur Lussi
Chris Pushkarsh, OPRHP
Joe Zalewski, DEC
Elinor Tatum
Bill Beaney
Andy Lack

Also Present: Michael Pratt, President/CEO
Michelle Crew, General Counsel

Introduction: Chair Joe Martens called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Joe Martens explained that the meeting was being videotaped and a link to the recording would be made available at www.orda.org.

Joe Martens then asked for a roll call, and confirmed a quorum was present. Elinor Tatum joined after the roll call, due to difficulties connecting online.

Minutes: On a motion by Art Lussi, seconded by Betty Little, the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on June 24, 2022 were approved without changes. Joe Zalewski abstained from voting on account of not being present at the meeting held on June 24, 2022.

Executive Committee: Joe Martens provided a report of the Executive Committee meeting held on September 14, 2022. The Executive Committee ratified the CSEA-ORDA bargaining unit contract. The new contract is a six-year contract and will make ORDA more competitive in attracting and retaining staff.

The Committee also reviewed the Proposed 2023/2024 Budget and 2022-2027 Financial Plan and Mike Pratt explained that authorization was needed to advertise the plan in accordance with the Public Authorities Law reporting requirements.



The Executive Committee made a motion authorizing publication, and recommended approval to the Board, of the Proposed 2023/2024 Budget and 2022-2027 Financial Plan.

The Committee members also discussed the 2022-2023 program of insurance and proposed Resolution #468 and the Executive Committee recommended that the Board approve the Resolution as written.

With respect to the electricity supply agreement and proposed Resolution #469, following discussion, the Committee members recommended a change to the Resolution to change “New York State goals” to “New York State renewable energy and carbon reduction targets”.

This change is reflected in the Resolution that was included in the Board packets. The Executive Committee recommends that the Board approve the resolution.

President’s Report: Mike Pratt discussed the social media campaign. Some of the ORDA employees have been telling their story about working with ORDA. This is being used as a way to personalize ORDA and help with recruitment efforts.

Mike Pratt reviewed some of the summer operations. At Mt. Van Hoevenberg the bobsled ride, learn to luge, and the hiking trail have been doing well.

The Olympic Jumping Complex has been doing well given the new summer surfaces now available. ORDA has been hosting multiple competitions and trainings on the largest hills.

The retail stores have been very successful and are preparing for the fall festivals at the venues.

Mike Pratt announced that the CSEA labor agreement was ratified, and the new wages were in effect.

Mike Pratt provided an update on the construction at the Olympic Center. The new restaurant in Miracle Plaza is slated to open on October 18th, and the first floor, which includes the retail store and museum, is expected to open around Thanksgiving.



Staff has moved into the new administrative building. Staff moving to the new building provides more square footage at the Miracle Plaza.

Work is continuing at the Training Center Dormitory. The next project is replacing all of the old exterior lighting. All of the improvements have been well received by the athletes.

At the Veterans' Memorial Highway contractors continue to discover significant repair needs. The project is coming along and will continue through next year.

Mike Pratt discussed the Belleayre Unit Management Plan Amendment (UMPA) process. The 42-day public comment period is complete. ORDA has compiled the comments by like topic and has drafted responses. The draft responses have been submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for additional review, in preparing the final proposed UMPA.

Diane Munro asked for clarification on the UMPA process and if a revision will be posted that includes responses to the public comments. Mike Pratt explained that once the review process is complete, the updated UMPA and responses would be posted.

ORDA has received a lot of media attention. At the International Figure Skating event an American Figure Skater landed the first ever Quad Axel. ORDA is hosting the Dick Button Artistic Figure Skating event - Dick Button was the first competitor to ever land a double Axel. We have received a lot of news for being awarded the first to host the Ski Jumping World Cup in North America in 22 years, and in Lake Placid in 31 years.

Mike Pratt reviewed the season pass sales and ORDA is well ahead of the record sales of last year.

Mike Pratt discussed the insurance resolution and ORDA will be taking an increase of about 13% due to ORDA incorporating higher deductibles, hard market trends in the volatile insurance landscape, higher revenues projected for 2022/2023, and the increased value of ORDA's facilities due to modernization efforts.

Mike Pratt also discussed the electrical resolution and explained that ORDA needs to be nimble and react to softer market opportunities as they present themselves.



Mike Pratt discussed the Resolution for the Gondola Grips at Whiteface. The grips are inspected regularly for wear. With the supply chain challenges ORDA is being proactive so the work can be completed next summer.

The opening ceremonies of the World University Games is in 106 days. Governor Kathy Hochul recently visited Mt. Van Hoevenberg to make announcements about the games.

There has been a lot of international visitations and inspections. The Head of Delegation for the FISU World University Games recently toured all facilities being used during the Games.

Andy Lack thanked Mike Pratt, Betty Little, Art Lussi and other people who have been involved in upgrading the venues and making them successful.

Diane Munro inquired about ORDA's regional electrical grids and their ability to provide for future energy needs. Mike explained that NYSEG has recently made important upgrades at Belleayre and Whiteface to improve the quality, capacity, and reliability of available electricity. He commented that Gore's National Grid service provides the desired quantity and quality of electricity in that area as well.

Elinor Tatum asked when ORDA had last looked into other insurance broker services. Michelle Crew explained that ORDA explored broker options one year ago in cooperation with OGS. It was determined that due to the specific nature of ski area-related insurance, ORDA was best served by retaining the industry expertise of its current broker, who facilitates the competitive bidding process on ORDA's behalf.

New Business:

Resolutions:

#468 Resolution Committing Capital and Authorizing the President & CEO to Enter Into Agreements for ORDA 2022-2023 Program of Insurance.

On a motion by Betty Little, seconded by Andy Lack.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, adopted Resolution #468.



#469 Resolution Committing Capital and Authorizing the President & CEO to Enter Into Electricity Supply Agreements for Belleayre Mountain, Gore Mountain, and Whiteface Mountain.

On a motion by Elinor Tatum, seconded by Art Lussi.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, adopted Resolution #469.

#470 Resolution Committing Capital and Authorizing the President & CEO to Enter Into an Agreement for the Purchase of Replacement Detachable Grips for the Cloudsplitter Gondola at Whiteface Mountain.

On a motion by Art Lussi, seconded by Steve Hunt.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, adopted Resolution #470.

Chair:

Joe Martens announced that the next Board meeting is planned for December 16, 2022.

Joe Martens congratulated Mike Pratt, President & CEO, for receiving the 2022 Ski Association of New York (SANY) Hall of Fame Award, in appreciation for his years of service to SANY.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Art Lussi, seconded by Andy Lack, the meeting of the Olympic Regional Development Authority Board of Directors was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.