



**NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 19, 2022**

Present: Joe Martens, Chair  
Stephen Hunt, ESD  
Betty Little  
Arthur Lussi  
Chris Pushkarsh, OPRHP  
Jeff Stefanko, DEC  
Elinor Tatum  
Cliff Donaldson  
Diane Munro

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

Introduction: Chair Joe Martens called the meeting to order at 1:00 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](http://www.orda.org).

Joe Martens then asked for a roll call, and confirmed a quorum was present. Andy Lack joined but, due to technical difficulties, was not able to be seen on camera.

Minutes: On a motion by Betty Little, seconded by Cliff Donaldson, the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on September 28, 2022 were approved without change.

Governance Committee: Chris Pushkarsh provided a report of the Governance Committee meeting held on December 2, 2022. There were three agenda items that were discussed, which included the updated proposed ORDA Mission Statement, minor revisions to the Background Check Policy and the review of a policy addressing Domestic and Gender Based Violence in the Workplace, and a discussion about how to move forward with revisions to the Board member evaluation process.

The Committee recommends that the full Board adopt the proposed ORDA Mission Statement, minor revisions to the Background Check



Policy and the policy addressing Domestic and Gender Based Violence in the Workplace.

The Committee discussed a process for a path forward with tailoring the Board member evaluations tool to be more ORDA-focused. The Governance Committee will provide the Board with additional information as the process develops.

President's Report: Mike Pratt discussed some of the fall highlights and the multiple events that have taken place at the venues.

At Belleayre they had a fall festival with big crowds, hosted a few weddings, and hosted a wedding planning seminar.

Whiteface has had the best ever Oktoberfest attendance. Gore also had a great attendance at their fall festival.

Mt. Van Hoevenberg hosted a Spartan Trail Challenge, NYSPHSAA Section 7 Cross-Country running championships, the Keys to the Castle Nordic race, IBSF Para Bobsled World Cup, USABS National Push Championships, World Push Championships, Nordic Grand Prix Eastern Cup, and USABS World Cup Skeleton and Bobsled.

The Ski Jumps hosted the US Nordic Skiing Nationals, the Continental Cup, and the Flaming Leaves Festival.

The Olympic Center hosted the WCHA Women's Hockey and Can-Cam tournament.

ORDA's Marketing and Sales team attended the media night in New York City and the Albany Ski Show. All three ski areas were there to promote their venues.

ORDA has launched updated logos for the Lake Placid Legacy Sites. The logos were designed in a way to work well together or individually.

All of the new improvements and openings have gone well. The ski areas started making snow on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Belleayre and Gore opened on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Whiteface had the earliest-ever opening of the Summit on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The new pipelines, snow guns, and pump houses are working well.



Terrain features at the ski areas are open for the early season. At a staff summit last spring, the mountains identified a need for more beginner and mid-level features. These types of features were delivered in the fall and are now being utilized throughout ORDA's parks.

The Miracle Plaza, the Oval, Roamers, Miracle Moments Store, and the Museum have opened. The official Olympic rings from the 1980 Winter Games were hung on the building and lit up on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mike discussed the PERMA Partnership and Safety Programs. ORDA has a great partnership with PERMA. They are not only insuring ORDA but contributing to ORDA's success by investing over \$40,000 annually in safety materials.

ORDA's season pass sales have grown and have surpassed \$12 million dollars in sales.

Mike discussed key factors of consideration during financial planning. This includes increased revenue, increased personal services, health insurance, and higher electrical costs.

ORDA continues to be challenged through all of the construction projects due to inflation, limited supplies, supply chain issues, and the lack of skilled labor. The adjustments for this project included the North Meadowbrook Dam deterioration being beyond original project scope, the roof of the staff building needed full replacement, the dam's wing walls did not have foundations and were collapsing, and the engineered estimates did not align to bids. Due to inflationary impacts, there was not extra funds to draw from.

Mike explained that a new haul rope was needed for the Whiteface Gondola. All infrastructure is evaluated for wear and scheduling anticipated maintenance. The Haul Rope has a long lead time and is specialty equipment.

ORDA is in its sixth year of the power purchasing agreements for the Gore Solar, and seeking to purchase the array. It has been successful for ORDA economically, socially, and environmentally. This is the largest array dedicated to a ski area in the United States. This purchase would be a positive thing for ORDA to add as part of their own infrastructure.



New Business:

Resolutions:

**#471** Resolution Approving the Chair's Appointments to Committees of the ORDA Board of Directors.

On a motion by Betty Little, seconded by Diane Munro.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, adopted Resolution #471.

**#472** Resolution Approving Update to ORDA Mission Statement.

On a motion by Cliff Donaldson, seconded by Steve Hunt.

Elinor Tatum objected to the proposed new mission statement because it did not adequately represent, in her opinion, the vast range of New Yorkers and athletes that ORDA is tasked to serve. She believes that it is ORDA's mission to be inclusive of all people and that the language used does not include people with disabilities.

8 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstained, adopted Resolution #472.

**#473** Resolution Adopting Certain Policies and Procedures.

On a motion by Diane Munro, seconded by Elinor Tatum.

Joe Martens noted that there was an amendment to the Resolution.

Michelle Crew explained that the change was in the second to last paragraph to add "and the workplace policy".

Diane Munro made a motion to approve the amendment to Resolution #473.

Seconded by Elinor Tatum.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, approved the amendment to Resolution #473.

The Board then voted to adopt Resolution #473, as amended.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, adopted Resolution #473, as amended.



**#474** Resolution Approving and Adopting ORDA's 2023/2024 Budget & 2022-2027 Financial Plan.

On a motion by Art Lussi, seconded by Diane Munro.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, adopted Resolution #474.

**#475** Resolution Committing Capital and Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter into Contract Amendments for Buildings & Infrastructure Improvements Project at Mt. Van Hoevenberg.

On a motion by Diane Munro, seconded by Elinor Tatum.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, adopted Resolution #475.

Joe Martens noted that there was an amendment to the fifth whereas of the Resolution #475 to provide "anticipated not to exceed \$800,000" instead of "anticipated to be \$800,000", and to change the be it further resolved section of the Resolution to provide "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the President & CEO to enter into the necessary contract amendments upon the terms and amounts provided for herein".

Betty Little made a motion to approve the amendments to Resolution #475.

Seconded by Diane Munro.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, approved amendment to Resolution #475.

Joe Martens asked for a motion to approve Resolution #475, as amended.

On a motion by Betty Little, seconded by Diane Munro.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, adopted amended Resolution #475.

**#476** Resolution Committing Capital and Authorizing the President & CEO to Enter Into an Agreement for the Purchase of Replacement Haul Rope 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 #476.

**#477** Resolution Committing Capital and Approving Purchase of Gore Solar Facilities.

On a motion by Cliff Donaldson, seconded by Steve Hunt.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, adopted Resolution #477.

Chair:

Joe Martens announced that Renee would be in touch about scheduling the next Board meeting.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Betty Little, seconded by Cliff Donaldson, the meeting of the Olympic Regional Development Authority Board of Directors was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.