



**NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2023**

Present: Joe Martens, Chair  
Bill Beaney  
Steve Hunt, ESD  
Betty Little  
Arthur Lussi  
Diane Munro  
Chris Pushkarsh, OPRHP  
Joe Zalewski, DEC  
Elinor Tatum

Also Present: Ashley Walden, 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. Elinor Tatum and Joe Zalewski joined after roll call.

Minutes: On a motion by Diane Munro, seconded by Betty Little, the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on September 22, 2023, were approved without changes.

Executive Committee: Joe Martens explained that the Executive Committee met on November 20, 2023, to consider two proposed resolutions that were time sensitive. The first proposed resolution was Resolution # 515, Resolution Committing Operating Funds and Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into an agreement for the 2024 Annual Policy of Health Insurance.

The second proposed resolution was Resolution # 516, Resolution Committing Operating Funds and Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into an Agreement with Echo Entertainment Inc. for Television Production and Broadcasting Services for the 2024 FIS Ski

Jumping World Cup. The Executive Committee approved both resolutions.

President's Report: Ashley Walden discussed the summer and fall activities and explained that across all the venues there was a 17% increase in revenue and a 9% increase in visitation. All the venues are now open for winter operations.

Ashley discussed the capital projects and what projects were completed this year. All three of the ski venues continue to expand their snowmaking improvements allowing them to increase the efficiency and effectiveness. Whiteface, Gore, and Belleayre opened new lifts, and Belleayre opened the new ski bridge. At the Olympic Jumping Complex, they finished the improvements to the judges' tower and the construction of the new maintenance garage.

Ashley provided an update on the season pass sales and there has been record breaking sales at all three of the ski venues.

Ashley highlighted several major events on the Olympic Authority's calendar and reviewed the successful Luge World Cup that was held at Mt. Van Hoevenberg on December 8-9.

New Business: Resolutions:

**#517** Resolution Ratifying Certain Actions Taken at the Board Meeting Held on September 22, 2023

On a motion by Chris Pushkarsh, seconded by Elinor Tatum.

Michelle Crew explained that there was a technical issue at the September Board meeting with remote participation by one of the Board members. The Board member's video feed had stopped working and was not able to be seen. The motions that were made by this Board member did not comply with the open meetings law. This Resolution will ratify the actions that were taken at the September 22, 2023 Board meeting.

9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, Resolution #517 adopted.

**#518** Resolution Approving and Adopting the Olympic Authority's 2024/2025 Budget & 2023-2028 Financial Plan

On a motion by Diane Munro, seconded by Chris Pushkarsh.

Ashley Walden explained that the budget the Executive Committee reviewed in September has been updated to reflect that the 2023/2024 capital appropriation was reduced from \$100M to \$80M.

8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, Resolution #518 adopted.

**#519** Resolution Committing Capital and Authorizing the President & CEO to Enter Into an Agreement for the Olympic Authority to Host the Union Cycliste Internationale Mountain Bike World Series in 2024, 2025, and 2026

On a motion by Diane Munro, seconded by Chris Pushkarsh, as presented, and amended.

Ashley Walden explained that for this event there is a fee associated but there are a number of support services included. UCI will provide all the broadcast services, branding around the venues, staff for the course design, and logistical support. The UCI event is the World Cup of Mountain Biking. This is a 3-year contract and the fee to host this event will be a minimum of \$420,000 and a maximum of \$500,000 a year.

8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, Resolution #519 adopted.

Chair:

Joe Martens announced that the meeting's business had concluded.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Art Lussi, seconded by Betty Little, the meeting of the Olympic Regional Development Authority Board of Directors was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.