



NEW YORK STATE
**OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**Board Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2024**

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

Also Present: Ashley Walden, President & CEO
Michelle Crew, General Counsel

Introduction: Vice-Chair Art Lussi called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

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

Art Lussi then asked for a roll call, and confirmed a quorum was present. Joe Martens attended the meeting via videoconference, in a non-public location, under extraordinary circumstances. Art Lussi ran the meeting as Vice-Chair.

Minutes: On a motion by Betty Little, seconded by Joe Zalewski, the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on December 13, 2023, were approved without changes. Cliff Donaldson abstained from voting on account of not being present at the meeting held on December 13, 2023.

Executive Session: On a motion by Diane Munro, seconded by Cliff Donaldson, the Olympic Authority Board of Directors entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment or employment of a particular person or corporation.

After a motion and second, the Olympic Authority Board of Directors voted to exit Executive Session and resumed public session. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Executive
Committee:

Art Lussi explained that the Executive Committee met on December 21, 2023, to consider Resolution # 520 – Resolution Approving and Adopting the Olympic Authority’s 2024/2025 Budget and 2023-2028 Financial Plan – Corrected. The resolution approved a correction to the “Total Expenditures” which should have read \$162,024,876 rather than \$182,024,876. This error did not affect any other items within the document.

President’s Report: Ashley Walden highlighted Governor Hochul’s visit to Mt. Van Hoevenberg on January 23, 2024, where Governor Hochul presented her executive budget. During the presentation, Governor Hochul confirmed New York State’s commitment to continue hosting international events.

Ashley provided a mid-winter revenue update. Ashley explained that visitation is flat due to challenging weather in the first part of the season, especially over Christmas, but revenue is up by 7% compared to last year. Ashley also discussed some of the key growth areas, which include Belleayre, the Olympic Museum, zip lines at the venues, and indoor and outdoor skating at the Olympic Center.

Ashley discussed some of the events that have been hosted at the Olympic Authority venues which include the Adirondack Winter Invitational at the Olympic Center, the SuperTour Eastern Cup at Mt. Van Hoevenberg, and the Empire State Winter Games.

On January 10, 2024, several individuals were honored for their help in developing the North Creek Ski Bowl. The honorees were Kelly and Bob Nettle, Tom Butler, George Heim, and former ORDA President & CEO Mike Pratt.

Ashley highlighted some of the community and sports events that go on throughout the venues. At the Olympic Center they started the Job and Career Training Program, family and youth skating programs, and museum education programs. There are youth and local programs offered at all the venues.

The Olympic Authority is celebrating the centennial of the first Winter Olympic Games which were held January 25 – February 5, 1924.

Ashley discussed some of the events that are scheduled to be hosted at the venues. These events include Nordic events, Alpine

and Freeride events, and other major events that includes the World Cup Ski Jumping and the IBSF World Cup Skeleton/Bobsled.

New Business:

Resolutions:

#521 Resolution Committing Capital and Authorizing the President & CEO to Enter Into an Agreement for the Purchase of Replacement Gondola Cabins for the Northwoods Gondola at Gore Mountain

On a motion by Betty Little, seconded by Cliff Donaldson.

Ashley Walden explained that the Gore Gondola cabins were installed in 1999. They have considerable damage and wear-and-tear from year-round use. This will allow for them to be upgraded and get them to modern standards.

10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, Resolution #521 adopted.

#522 Resolution Committing Capital and Granting Approval for the President & CEO to Enter Into Agreements for Belleayre Ski Center Discovery Lodge and Overlook Lodge Improvements Project

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

Ashley Walden explained that this is a multi-year project that is set to start in April. The first phase of the project is the Discovery Lodge, with a final completion date of December 2024. The second phase of the project is the Overlook Lodge, with a final completion date of December 2025. Belleayre Mountain has seen significant growth in the past couple of years, and this project will continue supporting its success.

10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, Resolution #522 adopted as presented, and amended.

Chair:

Art Lussi announced that the meeting's business had concluded.

Adjournment:

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