

**ASPEN CHAMBER RESORT ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
April 30th, 2019**

Call to order: Cristal Logan called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Attendance: Present: Cristal Logan, Debbie Braun, Charlie Bantis, Andrew Ernemann, John Rigney, Dave Ressler, Rose Abello, Sam Barney, Jeff Bay, Patti Clapper, Linda Crockett, Jeanette Darnauer, Nina Eisenstat, Alan Fletcher, Heather Kemp, Cari Kuhlman, John Maloy, Steve Skadron, Heather Steenge-Hart, and Riley Tippet Absent: Donnie Lee, Rob Ittner, John Kinney, Lisa LeMay, Maria Morrow, and Bill Tomcich Staff Present: John Davies, Eliza Voss, Claire Sacco, Kathryn Dziedzic, Jennifer Albright, and Susan Bantis Guests Present: Andy Davies, Cindy Kahn, and Carolyn Sackariason

Approval of prior meeting minutes: Approved

Presentation:

Rocky Mountain Preschool Coalition – Andy Davies and Cindy Kahn: This coalition began from joint conversations between community foundations, and we are trying to determine where we can put the most energy to make the biggest impacts. In the fall of 2016, our leadership team began looking at preschool ideas for all children, as 90% of a child's brain development happens before age 5. People don't understand how crucial these early years are to start the groundwork. Early education helps to counterbalance chaotic home lives and toxic stresses. There have been numerous studies of people up to the age of 50 on the successes of early education. There are many health benefits and successes related to early childhood education. It gives parents the opportunity to participate in the workforce. My husband and I were teachers and had to relocate when we started a family, as childcare was more than one of our salaries, and Colorado is one of the most expensive in the nation, costing on average \$12k per child. Aspen is even higher. The entire valley has early childhood education gaps due to commuters and costs. Early education is such a priority because it has lasting effects, such as preparedness for jobs and overall life skills. We've met with consultants from Denver to conduct studies across our region and have collected data on thoughts of early education and funding. We are working to come up with ideas and programs that would benefit many families in our region and have to secure funding for these projects. Funding can come from taxes, grants, or subsidies. As our valley grows, we have to find ways to ensure our kids have early childhood education.

Chair's Comments: We are thrilled to have Andy and Cindy to speak before us today. They are amazing leaders in our community. Andy has been in the education field for 30 years, and it is bittersweet that she will be leaving the valley to be the head of a private school in California. Dan Porterfield joined The Aspen Institute last summer and he's been involved in our programming. It will be a big first summer for him and he is keen on getting to know our community and learn about our local issues. I have met with leaders in the health and human services recently, and there is so much amazing work being done up and down the valley. Eliza, Sarah, and I met with non-profit arts and culture leaders to get updates on the programming scheduled and the economic impact study, which is moving along. Reminder that next month's meeting will be held at The Gant, and we've invited Cathy Ritter from CTO to speak. It will be a combination of the Board and MAC meeting. Finally, we have passes for the Ideas Festival, so if you're interested, please be in touch.

President's Comments: I recently had the opportunity to meet with Rob Ittner, as his restaurant has sold, and we discussed his staying on this Board. He is keeping the Cooking School of Aspen for the summer season, so he will remain on. Rob is going to get the restaurant members together, as there are many opportunities for collaboration, such as restaurant week to tie in with Winterskol. He is unable to attend today, but his report is included in the Board packet. Simon Chen has left The Little Nell and will no longer sit on this Board. He is planning to stay in Aspen, and we wish him well. His seat is appointed by ASC, so John Rigney and I will be looking to fill the seat soon. We have several groups wanting to increase engagement. We've set a date in June to review and update our bylaws with our Chair Emeritus. The chatbot on our website is live and newsletter subscriptions are up 400%. There is information on last week's air service meeting in the packet. The primary goal is to tweak the schedules to prevent air congestion. There was an airport vision meeting, and we had to break into groups to come up with a vision and 3 core values. Eliza and I chose to create an environment for the airport to thrive, and our three core values were economic vitality, modern amenities, and high-quality service. We have to be leaders in environmental sustainability regardless of the cost. The Colorado Department of Labor has approached me about speaking before this Board, so please take a look at the attachment in the packet. There is some great information, but we will dive deeper when they present. I will be over at The Cottage on Thursday for Raise a Reader and I will also be heading to Alaska to visit family next week. Finally, it's bittersweet to announce that Claire will be leaving us this summer to attend grad school at Georgetown. We are very excited for her.

Public Affairs Committee Update: Maria was unable to join us today, so update given by Debbie Braun. We've reached out to new members and have invited a few to join the Committee. Stan Clauson, Sam Barney, and Kimbo Brown will be joining. We are doing a bit of restructuring and will be utilizing our LISTSERV for communications.

Old Business: None

New Business: DMAP Code of Ethics – Adopted by ACRA Board of Directors

Director's Comments:

John Maloy: May 1st is "decision day" for our 133 seniors. 100% of them have received offers for college. There was a total of 683 applications sent to 281 college institutions.

Andrew Ernemann: The real estate market is quiet, with a few bigger projects in the works. The residential market is tracking well, and Q1 is looking to end at or ahead of last year's numbers.

Heather Kemp: Very few people are saying they had a bad winter, overall everyone seems to have done well in retail. Due to sales tax numbers and delivery tax, it is difficult to get a real idea of the success. Summer is coming and as long as we have parking spaces, business should be strong.

Sam Barney: Gave construction industry update and spoke of energy and land use code working group. Starwood is working on a microgrid to provide their own energy. ACRA and Claire have done a great job of communicating with the membership.

Linda Crockett: I went straight to the back of the report included in the Board packet and noticed it said that no schools produced graduates in the last five years. Assuming it is just a placeholder, as there have been graduates. We received a stamp of approval from our higher learning visit, and the state has approved to add additional bachelor's degree programs. Our campus produced several graduates with bachelor's degrees, and graduation is this Saturday. Aspen's class will graduate with the Spring Valley class. We are adding additional staff to our campus and I will be teaching a positive psychology class this fall. On June 13th we are hosting a Bauhaus event at the Aspen campus.

Nina Eisenstat: I've been hearing much enthusiasm for this summer. Off season continues to shrink, which is good for our town. Very excited about Earth's Call coming in May. Claire has done such a great job in her role and has really built the Public Affairs Committee. Congratulations on Georgetown Claire.

Patti Clapper: Pitkin County is quiet right now, but I will be attending the economic symposium in Silverthorne on Thursday. Will bring the report from the CO Dept of Labor with me. Will work with Kathryn to see what information we can bring back.

Cari Kuhlman: We have a Finance Committee meeting set for May, to review Q1 numbers. Gave update on banking industry.

Dave Ressler: Our Board at AVH is supporting the proposed ban of flavored tobacco products in Aspen. This summer will be the first time that the Snowmass Clinic will be open. Targeted to open in June. There are plans to move into a new location in Base Village this December. Congratulations to ASC for developing a vibrant year-round area at Base Village. We are in the final stages of recruiting additional primary care physicians and have a few starting in the coming months.

Alan Fletcher: Gave an update on the Arts & Culture community. Main activity taking place is the economic impact study, as Cristal mentioned. The perception of arts and culture should be on par with sports and restaurants. Locals passes for the Music Festival are selling at 4x the rate last year and general ticket sales are up 25%. Should be a strong summer.

Riley Tippet: Congratulations to Claire for getting into Georgetown. She has been an excellent resource for the business community. With winter ending late and summer starting early, there is not much time to transition. We have bikes and skis on the floor at the moment. We are expanding with a bike repair shop, but are having difficulty hiring medium skilled labor, even when offering 20-30% more than competitors. Looking forward to the summer.

Heather Steenge-Hart: The St. Regis Aspen had great Q1 numbers. We will have a very short closure this year and will be reopen on May 13th, just in time for a city-wide buyout for Earth's Call. The W is hoping to open in July, and we are still hiring for the many open positions.

Jeff Bay: Gave an update on the airport advisory committee meetings. Surprised at some of the negative attitudes from people, as they applied to be on the committees. Please reach out with any feedback. There are resources and information online for anyone interested. Next meeting is May 7th. Gave occupancy update and offered information available on ACRA's website. We are getting a lot of requests for information on trails that will be open this summer, and we all need to be giving alternatives to major areas that are delayed or closed.

John Rigney: We are deep in planning for the summer. Snowmass will open for mountain biking on June 22nd. Aspen Mountain will be open for gondola traffic and possibly skiing for Memorial Day weekend.

Rose Abello: I'll be passing around a brochure for our summer events in Snowmass. Many activities will be taking place, such as the Wednesday night rodeos, Ride the Rockies, and the benefit concert that is typically for the deaf camp, which is being called Rock for a Reason this year. Come out and visit during passholder week June 22-29th.

Steve Skadron: It's been quiet at the City Council table, as this is usually the election cycle period. Gave update on City business, such as the offices, manager search, and APCA governance changes. Linda, it was one of the greatest privileges as mayor to speak at the commencement ceremony for CMC.

Jeanette Darnauer: Thanks to the entire ACRA staff for a great breakfast, it was the best we've had. Congratulations to Claire, who we will miss on the Public Affairs Committee. Gave update on Public Affairs, with information on meetings with Mitch Osur about parking.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.