

**ASPEN CHAMBER RESORT ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
May 29th, 2018**

Call to order: Donnie Lee called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

Attendance: Present: Donnie Lee, Cristal Logan, Charlie Bantis, Dave Ressler, Riley Tippet, John Rigney, Warren Klug, Rose Abello, Jeff Bay, Simon Chen, Patti Clapper, Nina Eisenstat, Andrew Ernemann, Rob Ittner, Lisa LeMay, John Maloy, Maria Morrow, Tim Perry, Steve Skadron, Laura Smith, and Bill Tomcich. Absent: Debbie Braun, Linda Crockett, Jeanette Darnauer, Heather Steenge-Hart, and Heather Kemp. Staff present: Julia Theisen, Erik Klanderud, and John Davies.

Approval of April 24th meeting minutes: Unanimously approved.

Presentation: City of Aspen Parking Department – Mitch Osur: There are 682 parking spaces in the downtown core, 311 in the garage, 2,000 in residential and 200 paved spots at the intercept lot. Parking department is issuing warnings to first time violators. The goal is no more than 90% occupancy of the parking capacity at any time. There will be dynamic pricing this summer. 10-11 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. will have lower rates than 11 a.m. -3 p.m. city is allowing 15 minutes free parking at every pay station to facilitate quick errands in the core. Allowance is once per day per vehicle. There will be an app available starting in November for Pay-By-Plate. The City is banning non-motorized vehicles in residential areas, and there will be additional changes to the parking permit policies in the next few years. Oversized vehicles cannot get permits for residential areas. These ideas and policies are from residents coming to City Council meetings. Hybrid vehicles no longer park for free as they are not as cutting edge as pure electric vehicles. The garage has been full lately due to construction and the police department. About 75 spaces should free up when construction is over. The parking garage has new equipment and daily revenue is up. There are now 4 pass options. \$200 for a monthly pass with a guaranteed space. \$125 with no guaranteed space. \$50 for 10-punch pass and there is a \$25 5-punch pass. Starting June 18th employees can park from 3 p.m. - 5 a.m. for free. The county owns three quarters of the parking lot at Buttermilk. The front third is free commuter parking for 24 hours but no storage. Middle lot is \$6 per day and can be long term. The far end of the lot is construction staging and costs \$40 per day. Contact parking department for those needs. Parking near Sky Mountain Trailhead is free parking. May 1st – November the lot is managed by the City of Aspen and by Aspen Skiing Company in the winter. City is issuing about 400 carpool permits per day.

Chair's comments: A big focus for this summer for us at The Gant is to encourage everyone to ride the bus. We will not be allowing employees to park on the property during the season. We're on the eve of Food & Wine Classic, but not quite ready yet. It's been a dry start to the season, and we are hoping the summer rains will come very soon. So far, we're poised to have a very strong summer. Should be great for everyone. Debbie Braun is on vacation and Jeanette had a medical procedure. She is recovering, and we send her our best thoughts.

Finance Update: Charlie Bantis reported on the Finance Committee meeting for Q1; the Chamber and other departments are very strong with good cash balances. There are some timing issues creating variances, but nothing unusual. RFP process to consolidate banking is in process and will be sent to every member bank. ACRA does a review every three years, and Reese Henry is actively reviewing now to ensure that everything is in check. The Colorado Department of Economic Development met in Carbondale recently.

Public Affairs Update: Maria Morrow reported on the Public Affairs Committee meeting and that communication with members was a major topic. Had a great meeting with Steve Skadron and we have some great ideas that are getting ready to launch. Also met with RFTA, and preparing for outreach about their ballot measure. The plans are becoming more defined and will stay in touch for more details.

Director's Comments

Warren Klug: Very anxious to get all the construction projects wrapped up. We are looking at a good summer. Warren and his wife are retiring or "stepping down" but Warren will be staying on part time to help with the transition. Looking forward to traveling and to a great summer. Thank you to everyone who has made the last 25 years at The Aspen Square so wonderful.

Steve Skadron: Tonight is the City Council meeting. They will be discussing the ordinance for harassment of wildlife. Tourists have been taking selfies with bears and other animals. The first offense will be a \$250 fine, second offense is \$500. Update on RFTA; they need additional funding to ensure buses are running and for future projects such as electric buses. RFTA board has not approved the measure yet, but are hoping to get it on November's ballot. The RFTA Board will make the final decision in August to determine if it goes on the ballot. Update on Castle Creek bridge project - they've made excellent progress. It's a safety project for all users. The restart time in August has been pushed back a week. Gave an update on Lift 1 project.

Simon Chen: Great to hear about the wildlife ordinance! To echo Warren, we are looking forward to a great summer. The Sundeck is already busy.

John Rigney: Praise to Warren's contribution to the community over the years. The gondola is currently open on weekends and will be open daily starting mid-June. June 22nd is the opening of the Lost Forest at Snowmass. The base at Snowmass is moving along and the Limelight hotel should be open by November or December.

Rose Abello: Snowmass is kicking off the season of events June 9th and 10th with the craft beer festival and summer concerts. There will be ten Thursday concerts. The Spin Doctors will be playing Saturday July 21st. Events this summer include the Tough Mudder, Farm to Table dinners at Elk Camp, rodeos, and Friday's on the mall there will be 5-8 music students playing and activities going on.

Nina Eisenstat: Echo Simon's comments. Went to the Sundeck and overwhelmed by how many people were up there. Hiked Ajax all the way to the top, still a lot of snow!

Maria Morrow: Very shocked by how little snow there is on Independence Pass. We need to educate on fire safety and preparedness.

Riley Tippet: Very excited about how much recognition RFTA gets and how much it helps link communities and people.

Dave Ressler: Big thanks to Warren and Kathy for all of their contributions to the community. Gave an update on the ambulance station being built soon. Health fair is coming up next week at the Aspen Valley Hospital. You can sign up online for blood draws and screenings, there are already more than 400 appointments booked.

Cristal Logan: To echo Riley on RFTA; it's a very useful resource for the community. Heard feedback from non-riders who don't hear about the benefits. Cannot take it for granted how important it is. Thanks to Warren for all of his contributions to the community. Very exciting summer planned at The Aspen Institute. Ideas Fest is already sold out. New President Dan Porterfield starts June 1st. Thank you to Walter Isaacson for his impact on the community. We have 17 interns starting today so it feels like summer is starting! June 21st Spotlight Health and Ideas Fest start.

Laura Smith: Big thanks to Warren. Ramp up for summer season starts today. Aspen Music Festival starts June 28th and closes August 19th. Recitals are being held August 21st and 22nd. We are looking to keep the recitals going if possible, but it's very challenging when people have to be back at their Universities. Alan will be here next month to present for the Board meeting.

Patti Clapper: June 26th is primary election day. The ballots will be going out the week of the 11th. County building will be opening soon, very excited. Grand opening is August 7th. Airport environmental assessment keeps being delayed. The County has been extremely busy. Everyone needs to conserve water due to fire concerns.

Lisa LeMay: The wildlife ordinance is great as the behavior witnessed is beyond appalling. Stores almost doubled their numbers for Memorial Day weekend.

Bill Tomcich: Will have official numbers by April 30th. Memorial Day numbers looked good. Last year saw 61% occupancy, this year as of the 15th occupancy is 40% ahead. If last minute bookings are any indicator, this summer will be strong. Most of the industry was slightly down this past winter with Vail down double digits. However the airport had a record winter with a 95.6% completion rate and 164k passengers, which is a 13% increase versus last year. Stay Aspen/Snowmass is wrapping up a great year. Board meeting this Thursday. Hopefully by November SAS will be full owned and operated by Aspen Skiing Company.

Jeff Bay: Just finished a busy weekend where they turned away business due to high demand. Shared TripAdvisor reviews with people upset about shoulder season closures. Tomorrow is the Marketing Advisory Meeting. General data protection rules are coming into effect, and everyone needs to do their part to get educated and protected.

Andrew Ernemann: Real estate has been slow. Residential sales tracking slower than last year. The W Hotel will be marketing for fractional ownership units soon.

Rob Ittner: The cost of business is up and restaurants are down 8%. Comparatively to last year's numbers, we are down 2% YTD. The cost of labor and housing is why we have off-season closures. It's harder to do business in off-season. Food & Wine should be tremendously strong. Seeing a lot of catering and group calls. A lot of activity around Ideas Fest. Should be a strong summer.

John Maloy: Gave update on school district. Graduation will be this Saturday.

Charlie Bantis: Thank you for everything to both Warren and Kathy. July 21st is the Aspen Valley Land Trust fundraiser. Working very hard to make this year's event great at JW Ranch. See me or Andrew about purchasing a table. Tickets are \$250 before July 1st and then \$300. There are only 350 available.

Tim Perry: I also want to thank Warren and Kathy. I was one of the people without parking at the airport recently, but rode RFTA and it worked out fine. Community has been courteous with the construction at the entrance to Aspen, no honking or rudeness to workers. Starbucks is coming – it will be a hub for younger kids after school and a hangout for high schoolers. The block party for 4th of July will be fantastic and something to look forward to if we don't have a fireworks show.

New Business: none.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.