



DC Ranch
Community Council

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
REGULAR MEETING
Ranch Offices on Market Street
March 26, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Attending:

Ron Belmont, President
Bud Kern, Vice President
Natalie Ingram, Treasurer/Secretary (via call)
Jill Hegardt (via call)
Sheryl Lowenhar
Alex Townsend (via call)

Staff Attending:

Jenna Kohl, Executive Director
Dee Nortman, Financial Operations Director (via call)
Beth Overton, Facilities and Recreation Director (via call)
Jona Davis, Community Engagement Director (via call)
Chris Irish, Public Affairs Director (via call)
Erin Valdez, Exec. Assistant/HR Administrator (via call)

I. Call to order

Ron Belmont called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and a quorum was established.

II. Approval of November Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from the January 23 meeting

Motioned by Sheryl Lowenhar; Seconded by Natalie Ingram; Motion passed unanimously

III. President's Report

Ron Belmont gave an update on the Governance Committee, which met on March 3. Topics discussed included the May joint board orientation (still scheduled, but pending further meeting closures due to COVID-19 precautions), the Ranch Association's (RA) Meet The Candidates forum being cancelled, the RA giving Arcadia neighborhood 90 days to assess the Sissoo tree situation, and Covenant Commission updates.

Ron commended Jenna and the Council's Leadership Team for continued communications with residents, while keeping operations going and staff safe at the same time.

IV. Staff Reports

Jenna reviewed staff's response and actions in light of COVID-19, including efforts from the communications team (updates to residents via email, website, a-frames), closing the community centers while completing reserve updates that were scheduled for later in the year, and launching a virtual campaign to keep residents connected. The Living Connected DCR campaign includes virtual fitness classes for only DC Ranch residents, and social media initiatives and activities that align with DC Ranch's mission and values. Beth stated the community center closures (pool gates, tennis courts, pickleball courts) are consistent with what the City of Scottsdale is doing; both centers have signage up explaining closures. Ron commended staff for their actions.

Dee reviewed the monthly financials through February. Year to date numbers are favorable by approximately \$235K, due to cost savings in administrative and legal fee areas, and benefit fees. Cash balance sits at 5.3 months.

V. Consider Appointment to Community Council Board

The Nominating Committee presented Bruce Benham as their board appointment. His term will begin April 1, 2020 until March 31, 2023. Sheryl stated she feels section 4.3(c) of the board's bylaws state that more diversity should be included in the makeup of board members, and since Bruce lives in a neighborhood where three other members already live, she would vote dissenting. She stated she feels Bruce is qualified to serve on the board but believes his appointment does not comply with section 4.3(c).

Motion: To approve the Nominating Committee's appointment and confirm Bruce Benham to a three-year term (4/1/2020 – 3/31/2023)

Motioned by Bud Kern; Seconded by Jill Hegardt; motion passed with 5 votes in favor, 1 against

VI. Discuss Bond Referendum Projects/Public Affairs Updates

Chris Irish reviewed the history of the approved bond projects. The Thompson Peak Parkway Bridge project is scheduled for 2027, the dog park at Hayden/Thompson Peak Parkway is scheduled to begin 2023 with completion in 2025, and the sports fields in the Bell Road area are scheduled to begin this year, with a completion date of 2024. Regarding the sports fields, the City is considering a location (northeast corner of 94th Street and Bell Road, south of the Desert Haciendas neighborhood) for files that was not originally included in the bond information as a possible site. Staff has shared their disappointment with the Mayor and city council. Staff will send out communication to residents sharing how they can also voice their comments to the City; communications will include specific map details and links to the City's bond project.

Chris shared that the census deadline has been postponed due to COVID-19, but staff will continue efforts to have all residents respond in order to mitigate any door-to-door census workers. Staff will also send out communications regarding construction on the 101 at both the Hayden and Pima-Princess connections.

Bud updated that the City filed a lawsuit with the FAA regarding the Sky Harbor flight path on March 10. This will go to the US Court of Appeals.

VII. Consider Approval to Exceed 6 Month Operating Cash

Jenna and Dee reviewed the guidelines of the board's Financial Management Policy. Due to COVID-19 impacts and the potential to see declining benefit fee revenues throughout the rest of the year, staff is requesting Board approval to allow the operating cash to exceed the six month maximum as a precautionary measure. A transfer of excess funds into reserve accounts could happen at the end of the year.

Motion: To approve staff to exceed the six month maximum of cash balance, and to assess after six months (in October)

Motioned by Bud Kern; Seconded by Jill Hegardt; Motion passed unanimously

VII. Adjourn Meeting

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Motioned by Ron Belmont; Seconded by Natalie Ingram; Motion passed unanimously