

**ACRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 2021**

Call to order: Cristal Logan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Attendance: Present: Cristal Logan, Debbie Braun, Charlie Bantis, Jeff Bay, Donnie Lee, Rose Abello, Henning Rahm, Sam Barney, Nina Eisenstat, Andrew Ernemann, Alan Fletcher, David Baugh, Heather Kemp, Cari Kuhlman, Michael Goldberg, Lisa LeMay, Maria Morrow, Bill Tomcich, and Torre **Staff:** Kristen Anderson, Jessica Hite, Liz Cluley, Susan Bantis, **Guest:** Mitch Osur, Sara Ott, Maureen Poschman, **Press:** Carolyn Sackariason and Erica Robbie
Absent: Dave Ressler, Patti Clapper, Rich Englehart, Heather Steenge-Hart and Riley Tippet

Approval of prior meeting minutes: Minutes from March 30th BOD meeting were approved.

Presentation: Mitch Osur, City of Aspen, Summer Activations

Summer is looking very optimistic. Mitch first discussed summer parking. Starting May 3rd, we will go to paid parking in residential \$8.00 per day, lodging permits are available as before. New this year, virtual permits in residential zone. No more hanging tag. Also starting on May 3rd, pay by plate in the downtown core. When you go to the parking kiosk you just enter your license plate. This will also allow you to extend your time if you move your car. For guests of residents, you log into the website and enter their license plate. As of now, there are two mobile systems – pay by phone and way to park. Eventually, parking meters will go away and there will be more options for apps on your phone to pay for parking. Maria asked if we could push paid parking to June 1st. it is really hurting construction workers. May is for learning, much more education and awareness. We must start to train people now for summer occupancy. People must start thinking of alternative ways to come into town.

BOTC: \$6Million investment for the park n ride at Brush Creek, construction will start next April 2022 to mid-October 2022. Improvements include real bathrooms, lighting, repaving the existing parking lot and 200 new parking spots.

Electric Cars: Aspen is seeing a large increase. Working on number of charging stations and when do we charge for those vehicles. They can park for free in the residential zones.

Saturday Market: Mitch is happy to say, the Saturday Market will be the same as 2019. June 12th to October 9th, 8:30 to 2pm. 70 vendors. However, Vendors are required to wear masks and additional distance between vendors.

Street activations: restaurants will be able to activate in parking spots and on the sidewalks. Enforce 6ft distance between tables on sidewalks. Retail stores will be allowed to reserve 1 to 3 days to activate outside.

Presentation Questions / Comments:

Jeff Bay: Jeff asked for an update on Peapcke transit hub: Sara informed the group we are still in construction design process.

Sara Ott: City Council meets tonight and there will be a mask zone update.

Discussion:

Chair Update: Cristal talked about Ideas Fest – virtual June 26 to the 29th. Planning to host small in person events this summer. Hurst Town Hall series is going well and the new Aspen to Parachute website is live. Congratulations to everyone for a successful winter season.

President Update: Debbie is still unwinding public health involvement and working with task forces. ACRA Group Sales is busy. Liz is working with Rugger fest to find lodging for September. Maroon Bells reservation system is successful. The membership team is re-evaluating membership and taking a few steps back to examine everything. We are in the middle of a new membership campaign and reworking Public Affairs committee.

ACRA Task Force Updates

Restaurant Task Force: Sarah Reynolds Lasser gave an update on the Restaurant Task Force meeting. The meeting was to provide an opportunity for public health to update the restaurants on what is happening and how we are moving forward. Restaurants main obstacle is social distancing. Even if they can operate at 100% occupancy, 6ft between tables does not allow them to do so. Summer hires are also a concern and how to hire for the unknown. Public Health looks forward to playing more of an advisory role.

Lodging, Events, Nonprofits & Outfitters Task Force: Jen Albright Carney gave an update on the task force meeting. Pitkin County provided an update on what we might expect after May 27th. There was discussion on the vaccination percent is 57% and we need to get to 70% for herd immunity. This will allow the county to open at 100%. Asked the local businesses what type of barriers are out there and support they need from Public health to get their staff vaccinated. How to we target those who have not been vaccinated. There were comments about education and public transportation. There was also discussion on manually counting residents have been vaccinated outside of the county. A lot of comments of concern, if the community doesn't reach 70% by May 13th and what happens then. There are a lot of social events starting Memorial Day weekend and they need to know.

Eliza Voss: Eliza updated the group on vaccination communication. ACRA long with the city, Public Health, Snowmass Tourism, Ski Co and the airport are working with Healthy Winters Taskforce on messaging and a campaign. This is the same group as Save our Season.

Jeff Bay: We have done a great job on messaging on the vaccination. However, is there a tangible incentive we can offer people who are on the fence or waiting for the right time in their schedule to get vaccinated.

Directors Comments:

Bill Tomcich: Below is an outline of the schedules now planned through summer. Since my update the week before last, United added an 8th daily trip from DEN in order to eliminate one of the seven CRJ700's they had planned to park overnight at ASE, while American trimmed their DFW schedules from 5x daily to 4x daily. Still 23 daily flights total from June 3 – Sep 7:

Now – May 5: AA 2x daily from DFW, UA 4x daily from DEN.

May 6 – May 16: AA one daily from DFW, UA 4x daily from DEN.

May 17 – May 23: ASE closed for runway rehabilitation.

May 24 – June 2: AA one daily from DFW with extra flights from May 27 – 31 from DFW, ORD & LAX; UA 4x daily with 6x daily on Monday, May 24.

June 3 – Sep 7: Between American and United, a total of 23 daily flights are now planned with up to 24 on Saturdays as follows:

- AA: 4x daily from DFW, 2x daily each from ORD & LAX, one daily from PHX, plus new Saturday service from AUS for a total of 9 flights daily and 10 on Saturdays.

- UA: 8x daily from DEN, 2x daily each from IAH & LAX, and one daily each from ORD & SFO for a total of 14 flights daily.

Alan Fletcher: Alan welcomed Lisa, new Director of the Wheeler. Alan is very excited to offer live in person events 7 days a week, this summer. Working with Board of Health on protocols. We will require masks for the audience. Looking at seating options and if we can have a section with vaccinated people, can sit together not socially distancing. On June 27th, invitation only to honor first responders, teachers and the medical community. Ed Sullivan style of show, everyone in the arts community will be involved.

Maria Morrow: Maria reiterated the importance and timeline of herd immunity by mid-May. How do we reach college students coming home for the summer? Offer tangible incentives to them. The impact to our community is huge. The stronger we are, the better of a summer we are going to have.

Donnie Lee: The community leaders need to work towards a solution together. It is critical what happens in the next few weeks. It is going to be a busy summer and we need to be prepared and ready for our visitors.

Heather Kemp: Sashae has had a really great year. Pacing ahead of 2019 numbers. Heather is having difficulty finding staff who wants to work full time. Vaccinations are a personal preference, not sure how we can mandate it.

Torre: City council will meet tonight and decide on the downtown core mask mandate. Torre is hopeful for amendments to the mandate. Other city happenings: Affordable housing and the land use code and how to creatively provide more affordable housing. Torre discussed the Wheeler Rhett Funds, re-purposing the funds. The downtown business climate is changing. Restaurant investors are coming into a restaurant, asking sale price and accepting high offer bids. Torre is hopeful for a great summer.

Nina Eisenstat: The service sector has had a busier winter and April than expected and hopeful for a restful May to get ready for a busy summer.

Rose Abello: April was also stronger than expected in Snowmass. Seeing a little slower start to June, than Aspen. Submitting business safety plan for Thursday night concerts on Fanny hill. Seeing huge interest for social events such as weddings.

Michael Goldberg: The messaging in the next three weeks is critical. If restaurants are still required to social distance, they are capped at 50% occupancy.

Lisa LeMay: Store employees are raving about end of winter and a very strong April. Most retail stores are anticipating an employee shortage. Will need to offer complete benefit packages to retain and attract employees.

Jeff Bay: Very thankful for a successful winter. Simple messaging regarding masks and protocols are essential for guests. Guests come from less restricted areas and they are confused. The winter events we were able to showcase and successfully accomplish will provide us business for a long time.

John Rigney: Just completed our 152-day winter season! It was a huge group effort and thank you to everyone who helped. Now, onto summer planning, finalizing summer operations and camps.

Cari Kuhlman: Cari questioned the Rhett fund and how much was in the fund. There are a lot of city buildings that need attention and could use funding.

Sam Barney: Construction activity continues to be strong in our market.

Interesting media over the last couple of weeks for Aspen and Snowmass Village...

Aspen Daily News: Then and now: A 10-year snapshot of City of Aspen development. Christine Benedetti April 18, 2021 https://www.aspendailynews.com/news/then-and-now-a-10-year-snapshot-of-city-of-aspen-development/article_0b1fba96-9fe8-11eb-8e76-e71eafb0c215.html

As Supino noted, 2021 is already shaping up to be a noteworthy one when it comes to development.

“Planned upcoming changes include further streamlining our review process to ensure that it is as efficient as possible, commissioning a fee study to ensure our fee structure is more transparent and understandable, reducing the amount of contacts an applicant must communicate with at the city, making changes to our online permit portal to increase ease of use and instituting a formal process within the city to ensure that department regulations do not conflict with one another,” he said.

- Streamline review process, evaluate fee structure, reduced communication, changes to online portal, cross departmental streamlining

Aspen Daily News: Growth measures and impacts not all captured under Aspen’s current system. April 26, 2021 – re-evaluating existing GMQS.

https://www.aspendailynews.com/news/growth-measures-and-impacts-not-all-captured-under-aspen-s-current-system/article_b37bb904-a62a-11eb-815b-7f617bf3828b.html

<https://www.cityofaspen.com/1225/Current-City-Webcast-Meetings-Agendas>

Additional City of Aspen news

AIM utility metering – effort to modernize electric and water meters

Pitkin County – upcoming Growth Management Public

Outreach <https://pitkincounty.com/840/Active-Long-Range-Projects>

Master Plan Updates

East of Aspen/Independence

Brush Creek

Owl Creek

Castle Creek

Optimistic for industry wide COVID safety plan updates, May 26th re-evaluation. Fingers crossed for 70%+ county wide vaccination by this date. <https://vaccinefinder.org/>

TOSV – ongoing review of master housing plan (affordable housing)

<https://www.aspentimes.com/news/planning-for-the-future-council-visits-coffee-place-mulls-future-developments/>

<https://www.aspentimes.com/news/ongoing-review-of-master-housing-plan-focuses-on-big-picture-ideas/>

Engineered wood products (joists, sheet goods, beams, framing lumber) – demand is exceeding supply (glue shortages, raw material impacts, Canada). Appears to be a general theme with construction materials.

Henning Rahm: Renovation of the Limelight Aspen. We plan to open by Thanksgiving. We are pushing employees to get vaccinated, not mandating but heavily pushing the message to get vaccinated.

Charlie Bantis: Charlie asked about the local vaccination rate and how is the BOH counting people who have only had the first vaccine and waiting the two weeks for their second shot.

Sara Ott: Estimate 23,600 vaccine doses delivered in Pitkin County after this week’s mass clinic (currently auditing numbers): ~18,116 vaccines delivered at mass vaccination site Phases Ib-2~2,623 delivered by AVH/CHS for Phase Ia (December and January) ~1,656 delivered by MFHC~1,205 Local Pharmacies~3,000 single dose, ~20,600 two doses~57% to residents, ~43% to non-residents~50% of eligible population vaccinated in Pitkin County. The state also shows 4,579 doses delivered to Pitkin County residents in locations outside Pitkin County (Eagle, Garfield, Mesa and other counties) which could raise % vaccinated to ~57%. This number will likely go as state

data is updated. We still have a way to go but are doing well in our vaccination efforts. - from Jon Peacock

David Baugh: Very pleased that 60% to 70% of facility have been vaccinated. Working with Public Health on education to get the rest of facility vaccinated. The District has been able to remain open recently and finishing the school year on a strong note. Looking to host a mass vaccination clinic. Graduation will be held at Buttermilk.

Dave Ressler: We are on the road to a strong summer and our healthcare community once again thanks our ACRA team and business leaders for the high degree of cooperation and compliance to get us to this point, and we salute our Board of Health and Health Department who were faced with painful decisions and kept our community's health and well-being at the center of all of them. Please get your vaccinations and encourage your friends and family to do the same!

Rich Englehart: Right now, it is slow due to the off season, so we are doing several small maintenance projects at the airport during this down time. Reminder the airport runway will be closed May 17- 23rd for asphalt maintenance and striping. The 2nd draft of Bylaws for the Airport Advisory Board will go to the BOCC in a work session on May 4th. Dan Bartholomew the new airport Director starts on May 10th.

Riley Tippet: Everyone is expecting summer to be busier than last summer and for it to start earlier and last longer. This is exciting but also draws a lot of concerns. Mainly, where are people going to find their workforce? It's always been an issue, but the pandemic exacerbated it and it was a trying winter for many to not only find enough people to come close to proper staffing levels but also those qualified and those willing to work consistently. There is a saying in resort towns that the bar for being a good employee is just to "show up". Even that was difficult for many this year. Housing has been an issue for a while, it's been on many people's radar, but it was manageable, the pandemic seems to have pushed it over the edge and many are nervous how the summer will go.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.