

**VISIT COLORADO SPRINGS (VCOS)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday,
February 17, 2026**

Minutes

Board Members in Attendance:

Michelle Talarico, Chair
Megan Leatham, Vice-Chair
Marisa Wigglesworth, Treasurer
Dani Bolling
Curtis Bova
Torie Giffin
Christina Haywood
Alex Kovacs
Dave Namesnik
Dr. Cary Snow
Samantha Wood
Jen Furda
Crystal LaTier
Wendy McHenry

Board Members Absent:

Lisa Neener
Dan Leclerc
David Leinweber
Scott Flexman
Ed Okvath, Secretary

VCOS Staff:

Doug Price
Amy Long
Peggy Manter
April Perez
Alexea Veneracion
Melissa Williams
Dina Worthen
Juliet Jacoby
Nadine Keaney

Chair - Michelle Talarico

- The meeting was called to order at 8:02am. Michelle welcomed all and pointed out she is feeling energy and growth as spring approaches and the ski area areas are being blessed with snow! While we have had the added impact of entertaining frustrated skiers, it is good for Colorado to get this precipitation.
- She then asked the board for a motion to approve the January minutes. The motion was made by Wendy McHenry and seconded by Curtis Bova to accept the minutes as presented, and the motion passed unanimously. She then asked Megan to give an update on the CEO search committee. Megan said they have been working on the timeline with the search committee. And while the committee is made up of 5 Board members and 4 community leaders, the final vote will be just a board of director's function.
- She thanked the board for their suggestions for executive sessions and once she and Megan meet to discuss the options, they will get some scheduled. And if anyone has further ideas, please share them with Michelle.
- She recommends that we add executive sessions quarterly and include the CEO search among the topics. She asked the board to send her any ideas they have for additional sessions.
- She then introduced our guest Sharon Houghton from Destinations International. Sharon just started 7 weeks ago as Chief Revenue officer and gave a quick self-introduction.
- Michele then asked Doug to introduce our speakers. Doug then introduced our Nick Ragain and Connor Hall with PPORA.

Special Guests - Nick Ragain and Conner Borkowski

- Becky Leinweber, the CEO of PPORA, is on vacation so Nick and Conner are here to talk about the grant for PPORA for Peak Exceptionalism and the goals and objectives of the program. Nick said the CPW RPI grant totaled 2.5M with a total project match of over 3.6 M. For PPORA, the outdoor ambassador program encompasses El

Paso, Teller, and Fremont counties with the main area of emphasis being the Ring the Peak corridor. He said that while trails rate highly to citizens; surveys from visitors consistently pointed out the need for trail improvements and improvements in accessibility. There are several components to the program. Over 140 recreation entities are involved. He pointed out that improving and completely opening the Ring the Peak corridor has been in process since the 1990's. Torie also pointed out that she is happy to see the project recognizes the massive economic impact cycling can and does have in Colorado Springs.

President/CEO – Doug Price

- Doug said that the statewide Colorado Michelin program was announced by the state on Feb 11 and we sent out a release as well. He pointed out we have no idea who Michelin will choose and that there is no guarantee anyone will get a star, but we are in the mix. There was a brief discussion on the costs associated with the program, but it was pointed out that the more cities and areas with qualified restaurants the lower the cost becomes across the board. And starting in 2027 Colorado will become part of the southwest region that includes Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada. Doug also pointed out that we as staff and board need to keep quiet on a lot of the details as per Michelin's request.
- Doug asked Amy to update the board on the 150/250 Celebration. She said the shared 250th US birthday and Colorado's 150th will be a big statewide celebration. A logo is now available for download, and the CTO encourages everyone to use it freely! There are many happenings and on April 1 Good Morning America will broadcast from the Zoo. There will be lecture series, a celebration at Rock Ledge Ranch, a drone show at the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo and on Aug 1 another celebration at Rock Ledge Ranch with a Beer, Whiskey and Music Festival.
- Doug let the board know that our attorney is working with Desert Harvest's attorney to come to a reasonable solution to close out their lease and allow us to rent the space. They are still paying their portion of the lease.

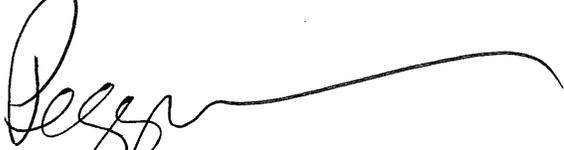
Financial Update – Marisa Wigglesworth and April Perez

- Marisa updated the group on the most recent FinComm meeting. The committee is continuing to work on a policy on the use of the opportunity and emergency funds. They have made progress and Doug and April are currently finalizing it. In brief, whereas before up to \$200K could be taken out of both the opportunity and emergency fund without board approval, it will be changed to \$30K to match general contract approval limit.
- April went through the financials and stated that everything is tracking as expected. She reported the operating/emergency fund was a bit low and that we had a surplus of \$158K so \$30K of that money was moved to the emergency fund to replenish it to the required 25% of operating budget. She is currently prepping for the audit and then showed the year end KPI report that will be presented to the city.

Wrap-up – Michelle Talarico

- Michele went around the room to get board member updates. Doug said he hoped to see everyone at the Annual Business Meeting on March 5.
- Michelle adjourned the meeting at 9:28 am.

Submitted:



Peggy Manter
Executive Assistant

Verified:



Ed Okvath
Board Secretary