



FEBRUARY 2, 2021 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DOE MOUNTAIN RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD

A meeting of the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority (DMRA) Board of Directors was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 via Zoom video conference call due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I. Chairman Reese called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Frank Arnold
Anthony Duncan
Dave Jones
Jerry Jordan
Gabby Lynch
Dan Reese
Tim Sain
Mike Taylor

Board Members Absent: Jerry Grindstaff, Carolyn Hawkins, Kristy Herman, Anne Marshall, Ron Ramsey, Ray Stout

DMRA Staff and Guests Present:

Tate Davis, Executive Director
Bob Richards
Lynn Hicks
Dennis Shekinah
Gloria Griffith
Mona Alderson
Russ McIntyre

II. **F. Arnold motioned to approve the Board meeting minutes from the December 1, 2020 Board meeting. T. Sain seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

III. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

IV. Financial Report – Treasurer Frank Arnold reported. As of January 31, 2021, the DMRA’s cash position in its Johnson County Bank checking account is \$1,656,206. The DMRA’s cash balance in its Johnson County Bank savings account is \$150,675. The DMRA’s cash position in its

Johnson County agency fund account is \$57,896. **G. Lynch motioned to approve the Financial Report. A. Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. New Business

- a. *RTP Grant Phase 2 Update* – T. Davis & B. Richards: The TDEC grant contract has been signed by the DMRA and awaits State signatures. The start date for the grant is March 1, 2021, and the end date is February 2024 (three-year grant term). G. Lynch and M. Taylor gave kudos to the DMRA staff and Bob Richards for the hard work and many months spent shepherding the RTP grant’s challenging administrative process.
- b. *Ad Hoc Subcommittee Assignment for DMRA Rule Change Process*: G. Lynch gave a brief summary of the DMRA’s original Rule-making process and the fact that the Doe Mountain project has sufficiently grown and evolved to warrant a fresh look at the Rules. **D. Jones motioned that a short-term, ad hoc subcommittee comprised of Anne Marshall, Tim Sain, Carolyn Hawkins, and Anthony Duncan be formed to work with T. Davis in reviewing the existing DMRA Rules and providing Rule change recommendations to the Board before July 1, 2021. D. Reese seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**
- c. *DMRA Legal Assistance & FY21 Budget Amendment*: G. Lynch summarized the DMRA’s ongoing inability to secure legal assistance from the State of Tennessee, despite two years’ of requesting such aid from the Legislature. The Executive Committee is recommending that the DMRA seek local legal counsel and abandon its attempt for State government assistance. **G. Lynch motioned that the DMRA’s FY21 budget be amended to include a \$10,000 Legal Fees budget line item that will allow the Executive Committee to retain local counsel on an as-needed basis. F. Arnold seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**
- d. *DMRA Carbon Revenue Financial Management* – D. Reese: Chairman Reese has met with three area banks (Johnson City, Abgindon, Mountain City) to request financial prospectus bids to help the DMRA properly manage its forest carbon revenue with a long-term view towards financial sustainability. **D. Reese motioned that a short-term, ad hoc subcommittee comprised of Frank Arnold, Kristy Herman, and Dan Reese, with non-Board guidance sought from local experts Gary Marsh and Tom Neaves, be formed to review the financial prospectus documents and make an investments recommendation to the Board at its April 6, 2021 meeting. G. Lynch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

- VI. Executive Director’s Report – T. Davis: The user pass sales revenue to date for FY21 exceeds \$83,000. Visitation to the mountain continues to increase and exacerbates insufficient parking issues. The RTP Phase 2 grant contains funding for parking area expansion and improvement. Daily user passes have been limited to try and help abate the parking jams. D. Shekinah posed a question about vandalism on the mountain and whether or not local law enforcement assistance is available. Picnic tables, gates and posts, game cameras, etc. are routinely stolen or destroyed. The DMRA staff have observed that the majority of this vandalism occurs close to illegal trails that enter the DMRA property in violation of policy. Local law enforcement has not helped to date. T. Davis noted that increased visitation, vandalism, and other people management problems are happening state-wide as more people flock to outdoor recreation venues, often without proper equipment and/or knowledge of adventure tourism experiences.

VII. Other Business:
Discussion ensued about the RTP Phase 2 grant start-up processes, in particular a “6F3” map that is an early requirement of the grant.

IX. Set Next Meeting Date/Time/Place

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 1 pm Eastern, location to be determined.

X. Adjournment

D. Reese motioned to adjourn the meeting. T. Sain seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Reese at 2:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Gabrielle K. Lynch
DMRA Corresponding Secretary

The mission of the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority is to transform Doe Mountain into a safe, fun, family-oriented, multi-use outdoor recreational destination that promotes local economic development while conserving and protecting its beauty, woods, water and wildlife.