



DOE MOUNTAIN RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD

Meeting Minutes: June 6, 2023

The Doe Mountain Recreation Authority (DMRA) Board of Directors met on June 6, 2023, at the Doe Mountain Adventure Center, Mountain City, TN 37683.

Board Members Present: Larry Potter, Gabby Lynch, Mona Alderson, Kristy Herman, Tim Sain, Jerry Jordon, Gerald Parish, Frank Arnold, Ray Stout, Jerry Grindstaff, Lynn Tully, and David Jones (zoom)

Board Members Absent: Ron Ramsey, Anthony Duncan

DMRA Staff Present: Executive Director Charles Ridlehuber, Trail Construction Supervisor Josh Collins, Administrative Assistant/Board Liaison Autumn Groesbeck

Others Present: 22 members of the public

1. Chairman Potter called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He introduced the new DMRA Executive Director Charles Ridlehuber.

2. Public Comment Period

Chairman Potter opened the public comment period, stating that DMRA had been notified the previous Friday that the Shooting Sports Complex Grant had been approved for \$1.5 million dollars, with authorization to start the environmental assessment. He stated this is just the beginning of the planning process.

Dan Conner, who lives on Harbin Hill Road, presented a petition signed by Harbin Hill residents stating concerns regarding the proposed gun range and asking the Board to be cognizant of the safety and noise concerns. A copy of the petition will be filed with the minutes. Mr. Conner also voiced concerns regarding current noise levels, traffic and road conditions on Harbin Hill Road, and the need to ensure that all vehicles have spark arrestors.

Scott Genaille, who also lives in the Harbin Hill neighborhood, expressed his concern that the proposed Complex is too close to residences and other activities on Doe Mountain. He cited a decrease in wildlife on Doe Mountain with ATV's. His overall concern is safety and is interested in what plans will be put in place to ensure safety.

Kathy Hill, another neighbor, voiced her concern with road conditions and noise.

3. Minutes of April 4, 2023 Meeting

Kristy Herman moved to approve the minutes of the DMRA Board Meeting of April 4, 2023; Gerald Parish seconded the motion; the motion passed.

4. Financial Report

Treasurer Kristy Herman reported. The Financial Report is filed with the minutes. As of May 26, 2023, the account balance at Johnson County Bank was \$462,988.60 and the Edward Jones balance was \$2,990,038.41. Johnson County is holding funding to pay salaries on DMRA's employees into November 2023. Frank Arnold moved to approve the Financial Report; Gabby Lynch seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Mona Alderson moved, with a second by Gabby Lynch, to approve Executive Director Charles Ridlehuber as a signer on all DMRA bank and financial accounts and associated credit and debit cards, to include Johnson County Bank and Edward Jones Financial Services; motion passed unanimously.

5. Carbon Credit Updates

Gabby Lynch reported that baseline forest plot monitoring is beginning now, as required by the forest carbon offset program, to document standing timber growth and related carbon storage. She stated that we are halfway through the eight-year contract with the carbon consultant and that revenues will start decreasing this year, as expected. As the program winds down, DMRA is investing as much of the carbon revenue as possible for reserves.

6. Purchase of Adventure Center

Gabby Lynch reminded the Board that Johnson County owns the Adventure Center building and 4.5 acres where it is located. The DMRA has planned to eventually purchase the Adventure Center, and we are looking at options to finance the purchase.

7. FY 24 Budget Overview and Approval

Executive Director Ridlehuber presented an overview of the current fiscal year and the proposed budget for FY 2023-24. He highlighted the need to have a new updated master plan and plans for several special events; the overview is filed with the minutes.

Mona Alderson moved to approve the 2023-24 budget, as proposed; Ray Stout seconded the motion; the motion passed.

8. **Roan Creek Bridge**

Executive Director Ridlehuber summarized a request by prospective property owners for a right-of-way across a bridge over Roan Creek that is the access point to the property. DMRA has a 25% interest in the bridge. Gabby Lynch moved to approve the granting of the right of way, subject to legal review and the new owners' agreement to be responsible for repairs and maintenance of the bridge; Jerry Grindstaff seconded the motion; motion passed.

9. **Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative Grant Application**

Executive Director Ridlehuber would like to apply for money to build beginner motorbike trails. Gabby Lynch reminded the Board that Yamaha had funded the first \$10,000 grant that DMRA received to build and gravel the parking lot. She also stated the Outdoor Access Initiative has funded many projects in the western United States and has worked successfully with the Nature Conservancy. Frank Arnold moved, with a second by Jerry Jordan, to authorize the grant application; the motion passed.

10. **Staff Reports/Informational Items**

RTP Grant: Autumn Groesebeck stated that DMRA submitted reimbursement request # 5 at the end of April and she is working on any issues that need to be worked out. TDEC personnel are coming to work with DMRA staff on June 7 regarding RTP actions and proposals.

Trail Updates: Josh Collins stated that the foundations are being poured for overlooks and storm shelters and the trail crews are doing maintenance and trail re-routing as well. Matt Fusco is to provide his trail assessment report in July.

Events: A proposed calendar is filed with the minutes. Executive Director Ridlehuber said that he is looking at holding a big three-day event next summer.

Polaris Rentals Update: The Executive Committee reported the decision to renew with Polaris for a second year, decreasing the number of units. New units will arrive in July and in-house repair work is being done on existing units. Frank Arnold voiced his objection to the decision being made by the Executive Committee; at least one other member voiced agreement. Arnold stated his support for the local company that presented at the April Board meeting and that the vote should have gone to the Board. After discussion, Executive Director Ridlehuber agreed to meet with the company and explain that this is a one-year decision and does not preclude them from renting directly to the public.

11. **Next Meeting**

The next DMRA Board meeting will be held on August 1, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., at the Doe Mountain Adventure Center.

There being no other business, Jerry Jordan moved to adjourn the meeting, Lynn Tully seconded the motion; the motion passed, and Chairman Potter adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona B. Alderson
Secretary, DMRA

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.