



DOE MOUNTAIN RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD

Meeting Minutes: December 5, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

The Doe Mountain Recreation Authority (DMRA) Board of Directors met on December 5, 2023, at the Doe Mountain Adventure Center, Mountain City, TN 37683.

Board Members Present: Larry Potter, Gabby Lynch, Mona Alderson, Kristy Herman, Jerry Jordon, Tim Sain, Ray Stout, Jerry Grindstaff, David Jones (zoom), Anne Marshall (zoom), Anthony Duncan (zoom), and Lynn Tully (zoom)

Board Members Absent: Ron Ramsey and Frank Arnold

DMRA Staff Present: Executive Director Charles Ridlehuber and other staff

Others Present: One member of the public was present.

1. Chairman Potter called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. After a quorum was confirmed, Chairman Potter turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Gabby Lynch, and he departed to attend to other business.

2. Public Comment Period

No comments.

3. Minutes of August 1, 2023 and October 10, 2023 Meetings

Tim Sain moved to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2023 meeting (with paragraph 8 omission of incorrect amount) and the October 10, 2023 meeting, as previously circulated; Kristy Herman seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

4. Financial Report

Treasurer Kristy Herman reported. The Financial Report is filed with the minutes. As of November 30, 2023, the account balance at Johnson County Bank was \$410,197.23;

the Edward Jones balance was \$3,391,816.28. As CD's matured in November, the funds were reinvested into 5.4% and 5.2% CDs with Edward Jones.

5. Farmers State Bank and Signature Authority for Financial Accounts

Treasurer Herman proposed opening an account at Farmers State Bank, primarily to invest in CD's and to have a DMRA presence at both local banks in Johnson County. Gabby Lynch moved to authorize the opening of account(s) at Farmers State Bank at the discretion of the Treasurer; Jerry Jordan seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Mona Alderson moved, with a second by Gabby Lynch, to approve and clarify signature authority for all DMRA financial accounts, including at Edward Jones Investments, Johnson County Bank, and Farmers State Bank. The following to have signature authority:

- DMRA Chair (currently Larry Potter)
- DMRA Treasurer (currently Kristy Herman)
- DMRA Executive Director (currently Charles Ridlehuber)
- Mountain City Mayor (currently Jerry Jordan)

The motion passed unanimously. Any prior authorizations to other positions or individuals are no longer valid.

6. Master Plan Update

Mike Norris, Nate Halubka, and others from McGill and Associates provided an update via Zoom, highlighting their current findings based on research, surveys and focus groups. They seek direction on which of three proposed scenarios the Board would like to proceed. Board members were asked to provide feedback to the Executive Director (and fellow Board members, if desired) after the meeting. The three proposed scenarios for Doe's future are:

- Minor changes with program improvements
- A state park model
- Focusing on being a single-track destination, with significant improvements in all areas.

7. Legislative Update

Courtney Atnip of C5 Strategies appeared via Zoom to give a Nashville update. The legislature comes back in session on January 9. She suggests including a "budget ask" again this year. Mona Alderson noted that DMRA employees need to be able to participate in State of Tennessee retirement options and insurance benefits; DMRA will need legislative drafting assistance for this.

8. Polaris Trails Grant Application

Charles Ridlehuber requested permission to proceed on applying for a Polaris grant of up to \$10,000 for trail building. Ray Stout moved, with a second by Kristy Herman, to authorize the application; the motion passed unanimously.

9. Roan Creek Utility Easement

Charles Ridlehuber and Mollie Ingle from Mountain Electric presented the request. Mountain Electric Cooperative is seeking a utility easement to take power to property on Roan Creek where a family is building a house. The primary concern is the presence of the Tennessee-endangered skunk cabbage across from the property and near a proposed new guy-wire. Ms. Ingle stated that workers will park on the existing driveway into DMRA property and not along the road where the skunk cabbage grows. Ray Stout moved, with a second by Jerry Jordan, to approve right of way, with advance notice by Mountain Electric to DMRA prior to any work. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention by Gabby Lynch.

10. Board Responsibilities and Obligations: Moved to February agenda

11. Staff Updates

DMRA Staff summarized recent actions and developments in the following areas. A written update is filed with the minutes.

- RTP Reimbursement: Brie Novack has everything prepared to submit the final request #7 to TDEC when Request #6 is reimbursed.
- RTP (Recreational Trails Program) Progress: See written update
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative Update: Work will start next year.
- Program Update: In addition to recent events, Cody Howell is exploring offering marketing packages with other local businesses and is hoping to offer a night ride monthly. Other educational initiatives are also being investigated.
- Shooting Sports Complex: Charles Ridlehuber relayed that the Environmental Assessment cannot be completed without a design plan. He will soon be sending out a RFP for design.
- EZFacility Software
- Website: Update is complete with only minor adjustments left.

12. Other Business

Dave Jones, who has represented the Tennessee Department of Tourism on the Board since its inception, notified the Board that he is retiring with December 8 being his last day with state government. Members voiced appreciation for his contributions over the years.

Next Meeting

The next DMRA Board meeting will be February 6, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., at the Doe Mountain Adventure Center.

There being no other business, Kristy Herman moved, with a second by Tim Sain, to adjourn the meeting; the motion passed; and Vice-Chairman Lynch adjourned the meeting.

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.