

VAIL MOUNTAINEER HOCKEY CLUB

Board of Directors – Monthly Meeting

June 9, 2026 | 6:00 PM | Mountain Recreation Field House, Edwards, CO



Meeting Information

Board Members Present

Kyle Denton, Paul Gorbald, Tony Herrera, John Roman, Katie Santambrogio, Ali Wadey, Sarah Wisor
(absent: Slade Cogswell and Justin Bradshaw)

- Quorum of the Board present

Staff Present

Dave Bishop (Director of Hockey), Jen Riddle (Operations Manager)

Others Present

Jared Biniecki (Vail Recreation District), April Trevino by Zoom (YPTC - Accounting/Bookkeeping)

Administrative Opening

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of 05.12.26 Super Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Sarah Wisor | Second: Katie Santambrogio | Result: Approved unanimously

Public Input

Jared Biniecki – Vail Recreation District update on Dobson Arena Remodel Project

- October 1, 2026 anticipated move-in to remodeled Dobson arena
- Impending continuous “monolithic” concrete pour, which requires curing prior to installation of boards and lights; fixtures and locker rooms taking shape
- Time lapse camera is set up and will be shared on social media. Exciting time for VRD and ice users!
- VRD will be hiring additional staff for front line positions and possibly lead position; full benefit, year-round positions and training will be provided
- VRD will be welcoming back the Mile High Mites program before holidays; anticipating running Mites and Mini Mites programs for approximately 6-7 weeks before holidays; expecting return to pre-remodel programming after holidays
- Current operational plan is to take the ice out at Dobson only every third year, so at this time, anticipating having spring ice in 2027
- Jeremy Gross has joined VRD (50/50 with Town of Vail) and will be supporting events and programming
- VRD using social media to share updates and excitement about reopening
- Board wants to make sure VMHC is also expressing our excitement about the reopening of Dobson and getting back to regular schedule and visitors returning

- Board wants to convey VMHC's gratitude and sincere thanks to TOV/Council, VRD, Mountain Rec and everyone who facilitated and financed the remodel and temporary replacement ice and help promote the skating community's return to Dobson
- Board was very excited about Dobson remodel tour and associated progress/results

Director's Update

Dave Bishop – Director of Hockey

- Director Report distributed and reviewed by Board prior to meeting
- VMHC received refund from CAHA in amount of \$4,600 for hosting more than average amongst constituent teams
- Unclear if RMHF is going to tier this year; decisions about whether to enter teams in RMHF usually made in or around August
- Discussion of impacts to Girls' 19U division due to changes in landscape including girls' high school hockey initiative. VMHC working with whomever has girls' teams at that level (HS, AA, etc.) to maximize opportunities for gameplay
- Decisions about criteria for state tournament bids will be made in November/December timeframe, may be impacted by turnover on CAHA Board
- Board Member Paul Gorbould recommends Director Bishop compile and share with membership an end-of-season report reflecting each team's performance in their respective league/division over season
- Director Bishop to provide specifics concerning Team Declarations to Board Member Katie Santambrogio for inclusion in approved minutes

Continuing Items

Constant Contact Initiative

- Board suggests staff highlight important decisions/action items from prior Board meeting in Sunday memo in addition to linking meeting minutes
- Board suggests distributing Board meeting agenda for upcoming meeting as an attachment to the Sunday memo prior to the meeting
- Board considering instituting quarterly Board update in an independent communication

Rodeo Rink Sale

- Board Member Slade Cogswell and Director Bishop have been providing rodeo rink sale information to potential buyers
- VMHC sent out detailed request for Letter of Intent to purchase Rodeo Rink last week
- Have received offers but no full-price offers with payment to be made in full at time of sale or delivery yet
- Board has concern about offers to pay over multiple years due to lack of recourse/collateral if the buyer is unable to fundraise and make future payments as anticipated
- If full sale does not come to fruition, possibility to sell assets à la carte (tent, chiller mats, Zamboni, boards, scoreboard, etc.); already have offers to purchase the tent
- Jared Biniecki recommends selling zamboni ASAP if piecemeal sale is pursued
- Director Bishop to pursue existing leads and Board Member Cogswell to weigh in before any decisions are made concerning the offers or sale strategy

Policies/Procedures and Bylaws Review and Update

- Revised documents to be finalized and voted on by Board before being sent with registration information
- Board agrees subcommittee (Kyle Denton, Sarah Wisor, Director Bishop, Operations Manager Jen Riddle) will meet to finalize modifications and send out for remote vote

- Board notes that documents need to be updated to align with new overarching policies including those concerning locker room monitors
- Dress code requirements discussion
 - Board Member Ali Wadey requests attention to dress code section and rink suit requirement
 - Board and staff discussion of balancing consistency and representational appearance with cost of required apparel/equipment and athletes' willingness to wear it
 - Director Bishop has black helmets and other equipment that can be provided for free to athletes lacking conforming items
 - July communication to families should include dress code information; more communication at Mite level concerning equipment color standards so families do not acquire nonconforming items

VMHC End-of-Season Survey Results

- Board would like end-of-season survey results shared with membership ASAP, to include summary and charts; results have been aggregated and will be shared in Sunday memo
- Board would like membership to know their feedback has been reviewed/considered and is being incorporated by Board into strategic goal initiatives

Financial Committee Update

General Financial/Budget Discussion

- Rodeo Rink takedown cost approximately \$150,000; VMHC plans to pay for service following sale of Rodeo Rink; seeking timing clause in writing to avoid early payback and maintain reserve balance
- Outstanding \$17,000 in Rodeo Rink pledges; a \$5,000 pledge was rescinded, others are non-responsive
- Upcoming budget meeting to discuss Rodeo Rink sale in more detail and reserve balance; budget currently approved but can still be modified
- Line item for Rodeo Rink debt repayment is cause of the reflected budget deficit; Board considering debt repayment be made from operational reserves and not treated as an operation line item
- Budget committee deliberating concerning operational reserves
 - April Trevino: operational/capital reserves should be at least 3-4 months
 - Board ensuring VMHC is operating in a fiscally responsible manner for membership
 - Want to have \$200-210,000 in bank in case of emergency (3 months – low end); will have about \$285,000 for end of this fiscal year (without factoring in repayment of \$60,000 to TOV)

Proposed 2026–2027 Budget

Registration Fees

- At budget meeting, contemplated a lesser registration fee increase (3% instead of 6% increase), which would leave VMHC with ~\$260,000 in reserves at the end of next season (with slight operating surplus) even with repayment to TOV and conservative fundraising estimate
- 6% increase was proposed due to multiple years of inflation and increased ice and tournament costs
 - If VMHC does not raise dues, would be operating at deficit and lowering operational reserves
- To balance budget, slight fee increase and elimination of the President's Weekend Tournament
 - Survey feedback indicated adding tournaments is a low priority and members generally prefer skills skates and non-travel options
- Fee increase percentages by age group reflect higher tournament, referee, and overall costs at older levels. Note that 10U B will pay less than 10U A for next season to reflect 10U B having fewer practices
- Board suggests potentially holding virtual State-of-the-Organization meeting (budget-focused) to explain financial decisions to membership for visibility and alignment with constant contact initiative
- Forecasting must be conservative given unknowns of Rodeo Rink sale proceeds and fundraising outcomes

- Dues structure needs to be finalized soon due to 7/1 registration opening
- If registration fees were stagnant, VMHC would operate on very, very low end of operational reserves (“bare minimum,” according to April Trevino), which would put unnecessary pressure on staff and prevent club from pursuing unanticipated opportunities and initiatives in furtherance of strategic goals
- Board Member Katie Santambrogio suggests providing more opportunities for families to donate deposits instead of receiving automatic refund, e.g., volunteer requirement or uniform deposits
- For the aforementioned reasons, Budget committee recommends 3% dues increase

MOTION: Motion by Katie Santambrogio to increase registration fees by average of 3% for 2026-2027 VMHC season. Second: Ali Wadey | Result: Approved (6 votes in favor, 1 opposed)

Fundraising Committee Update

- Fundraising committee being formed and is currently comprised of Board Member Katie Santambrogio, Director Bishop, Operations Manager Riddle, Wendy Hanlon, Jenny Pletcher, and Katherine Smith
- Fundraising committee recommending use of conservative fundraising estimate in budget with hopes for outperforming, especially without historical Avs Alumni game this season
- Potential Avs Alumni weekend in abbreviated format
 - No golf tournament or Avs alumni game but a Yeti v. Yeti game in conjunction with Bantam sportsmanship weekend (draw as social activity for families/teams coming for tournament)
 - Emphasize reopening of Dobson, may be able to solicit some guest appearances
 - Silent auction (online) and 50/50 raffle
 - Fundraising achieved through sponsorships, selling tickets to the Yeti game, and auction/raffle
- Build out corporate sponsorship opportunities. Event-specific for weekend but also season-long sponsorship opportunities
- VRD is also seeking sponsorship opportunities for Dobson and looking to do a community event to celebrate reopening of Dobson on Thanksgiving weekend (11/28-29)
- Potential for clinics, holiday 3 v. 3, etc. later in the season with associated cost to help fundraise
- Fundraising committee looking to create fun, incentive-based fundraising challenges across VMHC teams

Strategic Goals Update

- Board Member Katie Santambrogio is taking initiative re: fundraising goal for strategic initiatives, leaving four strategic goals the Board needs to determine leadership for and what kind of help/support is needed for moving each goal forward
- Board will review strategic goals to determine which they can support/champion. Current proposed timelines are flexible and may be overly optimistic/aspirational, subject to change
- Board Member John Roman suggests survey concerning proposed strategic goals be distributed in the fall to get additional membership input on what is important and a priority for members
- Next meeting, Board will discuss who will support which strategic goals and in what capacity

New Business

- Additional planning and attention to annual picnic/membership meeting on August 28, 2026
 - Potential for gear sale and skate sharpening similar to last year
 - Possibility for activity additions, e.g., sauce toss, cornhole, other lawn games
 - Main courses from Moe’s BBQ again with potluck style sides

- Signup will be created and distributed for membership to contribute food, beverages, and dry goods to picnic/meeting

Administrative Closing

Next Meeting Date

July 14, 2026 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Mountain Recreation Field House, Edwards, CO

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn and move to Executive Session: Paul Gorbald | Second: Kyle Denton

Public Meeting Adjourned: 8:37 p.m.

Executive Session

- Discussion concerning potential modifications to consulting fee for Dave Bishop and whether services performed satisfied requirements per contracted scope of services

MOTION: Motion by Kyle Denton to modify contract for Dave Bishop to increase consulting fee and amend scope of services and other terms. Second: Paul Gorbald | Result: Approved unanimously

- Operations Manager transition discussion

Adjournment

Executive Session Adjourned: 9:17 p.m.