

VAIL MOUNTAINEER HOCKEY CLUB

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: September 8, 2026 | Time: 6:00-8:00 pm | Location: Edwards Field House Community Room

Meeting Information

Board Members	Justin Bradshaw, Slade Cogswell, Kyle Denton, Tony Herrera, John Roman, Katie Santambrogio, Ali Wadey, Sarah Wisor (absent: Paul Gorbald)
Non-Board Attendees	Dave Bishop, Jen Riddle, April Trevino by Zoom (YPTC - Accounting/Bookkeeping), Jared Biniecki (Vail Recreation District)

Administrative Items

- Meeting Called to Order: 6:02 pm
- Quorum Confirmation: Quorum of Board present
- Approval of August 11, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to Approve: Tony Herrera
 - Seconded: Slade Cogswell
 - Passed: Ali Wadey and Katie Santambrogio abstained due to absence from meeting, remaining Board members in favor

Financial Update

- April Trevino from YPTC submitted detailed monthly financial summary to Board
 - Currently, VMHC forecast to end the year with a \$15,000 loss, primarily due to being \$43,000 below budget as compared to registration forecast
 - Donations have not yet started coming in related to fundraising weekend, will need to focus on bolstering fundraising numbers to remediate budget shortfall
 - Note that cash will not be an issue at the end of the year due to reserves, even if budget shortfall is not remediated
 - April sent out draft investment policy for Board's consideration and approval. Jen will distribute to Board members to review and provide feedback or approve.
- Vail Sportsmanship Tournament almost completely full, registrations for VST are in line with budgeted numbers and looking good for a robust turnout
- Katie Santambrogio: emphasized the Fundraising Committee is also looking to secure season-long financial commitments/contributions, not solely focusing on event-based sponsorships and contributions

Public Input

- Jared Biniecki, Vail Recreation District
 - Mites and Mini Mites registration is underway for VRD, solid interest and registration numbers
 - VRD's Sunday night introduction to hockey program for girls has lighter registration numbers; this program is geared towards 9-12 year olds, but there may be opportunity to expand to younger players
 - Dobson lighting has been installed, locker rooms are almost finished; 10.22 is target date for building ice, refrigeration anticipated to be activated 10.20
 - Fence is coming down this week and PPE will no longer be required; in bathrooms, partitions and mirrors, light fixtures are up; scoreboards are up, boards are going up starting on 9.10

- If Dobson can open even earlier than anticipated, they will do that, but no concern about being ready for current opening date. Trying to get open as soon as possible, therefore, there will be evolution around the rink post-opening, e.g., advertising, decorations, artwork, banners, etc.
- Theatrical enhancements will be available for hockey games including color changing up lighting, preprogrammed production scenes of goal celebration, intermission/warm up, intro, etc. that can be played by pushing a button
- Not going to have LiveBarn anymore, will have Pixellot instead; camera/video and analytics will be available from Pixellot (camera located center ice on south side), service may be sponsored so viewers do not have to subscribe like LiveBarn requires
- Information concerning VMHC opportunity to participate in Avs intermission has been sent to Dave/Jen, the relevant Avs game for this year is on 1.30.27

Director Update: Dave Bishop

- Directors Report distributed to Board covering scheduling, registration, tournaments, new coaches, apparel/uniforms, etc.
- Practice schedule and game schedules published on Mountaineers website; they are tentative and subject to change
- High School tryouts starting Sunday
- People enjoyed the Annual Meeting & BBQ and the player stations; positive feedback from the community
- Director's pre-season skates went well in Breckenridge, had 100+ skaters at each day of skates
- New coaches: Michele Nutesco, Bennett Engle, and Brendan Schutlz

Operations Update: Jen Riddle

- Still have some registrations trickling in, may advertise spots available on certain teams to bolster roster numbers
- Positive feedback on the BBQ from the community
- Jen has been working with Brittany in lieu of April for some of the financial planning and budgeting for VMHC; Brittany has a lower rate than April and also has been great to work with
- Pre-season apparel shop has already closed, that was Pure Hockey's window, not set by VMHC; another apparel shop/opportunity upcoming if missed chance to order
- Organizing hotels for VST; Jen is hearing from teams that some of the hotels are already booked up, but there were many hotel options offered and teams will need to be flexible on properties
- Nameplates for TOV council jerseys have been ordered; planning to present jerseys at 10.20 meeting
- Planning for celebratory "Puck Drop" for Mountaineers first game back at home arena Dobson during VST weekend

Fundraising Committee Update: Katie Santambrogio

- Goal is to secure season-long sponsorships but there are also a la carte opportunities, e.g., VST and Mountaineer(s) Cup (Yeti game)
- Kyle Forte is handling ticketing for Mountaineer(s) Cup, the Yeti fundraising game (\$20/ticket)
- Katie requesting that Board members try to each obtain a sponsorship or auction item
- Online auction with bigger ticket items, also chuck-a-puck sales
- Fundraising will translate to volunteer hour credits for families (e.g., selling raffle tickets, obtaining sponsorships, etc.)
- "50/50" raffle for VST weekends; tickets will be \$10; athletes can sign up to sell tickets in person at tournament and can also sell them outside tournament online via a link
 - Will have one smaller prize per weekend (e.g., \$250) and then one big prize at the end of the tournament
- Links for ticket purchases (Mountaineers Cup and raffle tickets) will go out in Mountaineers communications
- Potentially will host an end-of-season VIP appreciation event, could be in conjunction with coaches' party

- Have submitted proposal seeking funds to Discover Vail and also a request for community grant to Town of Avon
- Will also be doing banners for sponsors in addition to ads on boards
- Fundraising Committee is stepping up and doing great work!

Continuing Items

#	Agenda Item	Lead
1	Strategic Goals Update • Groups are having preliminary discussions, encouraged to meet and make additional progress	Kyle
2	Rodeo Rink Sale • Steamboat wants to come look at the boards and glass and additional equipment next week • Some additional interest in the structure, but hasn't come to fruition yet; Arena Warehouse interested in mats • Have made initial debt payment to TOV, but still outstanding payments due following sale • Still anticipating breaking even and optimistic about sale, but is taking longer than expected • Kyle encouraging sale of hockey-related assets as soon as practical	Slade & Dave
3	Outline for Zoom Informational Meeting • 9.10 at 7:15 pm • John prepared and distributed Virtual Meeting Outline • Topics include evaluations/placement, communication, code of conduct/expectations, age group directors, team managers, grievance procedures, SafeSport, locker room monitors (2 per team), volunteer requirements • Dave would like a few age group directors to participate and explain role • Jen to cover topics that fall under her sphere of responsibilities • Kyle to cover Code of Conduct/expectations • Slade suggests including introduction of new paid skills coaches and other new/exciting changes (e.g., Jen filling Operations Manager role)	Board
4	VMHC Annual Membership Meeting/BBQ • Membership really enjoyed it, loved the stations and the games • Did a high volume of skate sharpening • Worked well to have it on a Friday night, people didn't have to rush off to other activities • Meeting went well, a good mix of community building and information	Board

New Business

#	Agenda Item	Lead
1	Evaluations Discussion • Consider distributing information concerning tryout/evaluation process, including best practices and recommendations for families; strive to tie recommendations to VMHC's mission • Will also address this topic during the Zoom informational call	Board

#	Agenda Item	Lead
2	Squirt (10U) Co-Ed Teams - Concern in community about having 4 teams with fewer players, pressure on athletes with other sports or family commitments not to miss any hockey, etc. - Dave prefers to develop 20 players at A level versus 13 players; doesn't mind having small teams with kids having more shifts; expecting Squirt A teams to do well in WCHL even with 4 teams.	Tony
3	Vail Chamber Golf Tournament "Pirates and Putts"; if VMHC is interested or BOD members want to participate, there is availability to enter a team	Ali

Executive Session

- Executive Session, as necessary: None

Administrative Close

- Next Meeting Date Confirmation: **October 13, 2026 at 6:00-8:00 pm**, Edwards Field House
- Adjournment: 8:14 pm
 - Motion to Adjourn: Kyle Denton
 - Seconded: Tony Herrera
 - Motion to Adjourn passed unanimously