

VAIL MOUNTAINEER HOCKEY CLUB

Board of Directors – Monthly Meeting

August 11, 2026 | 6:00 PM | Mountain Recreation Field House, Edwards, CO



Meeting Information

Board Members Present

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

- Quorum of the Board present

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Sheryl Staten (Mountain Recreation – Eagle Pool and Ice Rink), Jared Biniecki (Vail Rec District)

Administrative Opening

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Approval of 07.14.26 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Paul Gorbald | Second: Justin Bradshaw | Result: Approved unanimously

Public Input

Sheryl Staten – Mountain Recreation/EPIR

- EPIR opens Sunday, September 13th for high school tryouts
- Sheryl out until October, Joe and Scott Ruff will be leading the charge
- Pricing for stick and puck is changing, \$13/pp for both kids and adults (or a punch card to make it \$12); asking Jen Riddle to include in Mountaineer Sunday memo (was previously \$7 for kids)
- Sheryl running 6 sessions of Mile High Mites, also Mini Mites and Mites programs. 50 Mini Mites, 50 Mites, 25 Squirt rec players (Mondays and Wednesdays); request for the Squirts to have the full sheet of ice, not a shared sheet so taking that full hour for Squirt rec (no longer sharing with Mountaineers) for fall
- Athletics/programs teams – Ture and Scott – to have additional conversations about reducing late night ice time for youth players, maybe shifting some Mountain Rec programming to weekend would be option
- Master planning survey demonstrates need for additional ice time/sheets – in top 3 desires of community; maybe funding could be handled through a Town bond issue (as opposed to entire rec district); planning to do a feasibility study of where another sheet might go
- Mountain Rec willing to donate items (e.g., punch pass) for VMHC fundraising/Avs Alumni weekend

Jared Biniecki – Vail Recreation District

- VRD to have Dobson building back October 1, 2026; scheduled to build ice on October 19, 2026; four new staff members anticipated who will need to be trained, including on Zamboni driving
- 34 Minis and Mites signed up so far for fall session

- Hitting the ground running: rubber flooring and lights going in this week, refrigeration is up, water is in, pipes are full, electricity tied in, etc.
- Working on fundraising efforts and expecting to bring in a full house for VMHC fundraiser weekend
- VMHC crew can schedule a walk through of Dobson with Jared
- Jared is going to ref this season for VMHC, woohoo!

Director's Update

Dave Bishop – Director of Hockey

- Would like to register all the girls' teams for the Grizz Cup in Salt Lake City (MLK Weekend); girls tournaments would then be Aspen, Steamboat, and Grizz Cup/MLK for season
- Recommends closing registration earlier/shortening registration period because the delay in registrations cause uncertainty concerning team numbers and completion of declarations, scheduling, etc.
- Mountaineers were denied admission to RMHF for 12U and 14U (previously a guest team, now not allowing guest teams and only allowing probationary teams trying to become full participants of the league with a team at every level); recommendation is to create a Peewee independent team and schedule games separately from RMHF league schedule – This team would be able to play in the 12U State tournament but not the Vail Sportsmanship Tournament or WCHL Playoffs (would add extra tournaments and independent games to fill the schedule)
- Board requests Director Bishop ask RMHF if the application might be approved if VMHC also entered a Squirt team in the league
- Board suggests more communication in advance about when schedule information will be released and reason for timing of schedule release to reduce calls and inquiries on that issue
- Potential to move tryouts earlier and do more director skates and/or off-ice programming between tryouts and regular season beginning
- Mountaineers will help goalies purchase goalie equipment where necessary (e.g., helmet and stick)

Operations Manager's Update

Jen Riddle – Operations Manager

- Busy with registration and related inquiries
- Participated in Fundraising Committee meeting; discussion of constraints related to fundraising avenues during fundraiser weekend, November 7, with Yeti v. Denver fundraiser game (not officially named yet); per Jared, 1500 max capacity for hockey game (including 500 standing) at Dobson; Katie S. is out of the country so will pick up upon her return this week
- VST hotels are nearing completion
- TOV sending Jen invoices re: repayment of funds related to Rodeo Rink
- Jen is obtaining gaming license to support raffles, etc. for VMHC fundraising purposes

Continuing Items

Scholarship Applications

- Process has been streamlined and applications are coming in; decisions will be made and funds allocated once application period closes; form is available online to submit application and necessary information; application deadline is August 24th for round 1, round 2 deadline is September 21st
- VRD also has some funds available for scholarships that can be used for Mountaineers, families in need should be encouraged to apply for those funds as well

Rodeo Rink Sale

- Anticipating an offer to purchase all Rodeo Rink assets except structure, then will know what the asking price needs to be for the structure to breakeven
- Still interest from other buyers but does not appear to be a viable offer or another buyer with sufficient funds at this juncture
- TOV is aware that VMHC is having difficulty liquidating Rodeo Rink
- Board members need to be having conversations in the community about availability of assets/structure
- Planning to post the structure for sale on Facebook Marketplace
- \$1000/month for storage; fabric was sent to California for professional cleaning and indoor storage

Financial Committee Update

General Financial/Budget Discussion

- Around 180 players registered for the season, expecting another 10-15 players; however, down compared to last year (233 players)
 - Due to graduations, fewer squirts, lost some Peewees, reductions in mites programming due to Dobson closure, fewer kids in the valley due to economic climate (Mountain Rec also seeing reduction in enrollment)

Fundraising Committee Update

- No additional details (Katie absent); see Operations Manager update

Strategic Goals Update

- Slade Cogswell is joining the strategic goals group. Now all Board Members have volunteered to support specific strategic goals
- Kyle is requesting the strategic goals groups meet and write down ideas/plans to share with Jen and Dave at earliest convenience
- Kyle is encouraging pushing out communications re: reopening of Dobson, including reposting of TOV and VRD communications; Jen and Slade are workshopping communications on that front expressing gratitude and building energy

New Business

- Jen and Dave to host Zoom on September 10 at 7 pm – VMHC membership meeting and Q&A; will finalize outline at preceding Board meeting (John has ideas)
- Annual picnic/membership meeting on August 28, 2026
 - Will act as formal membership meeting; have outline for meeting, which will be distributed to Board members for any modifications or supplementation (e.g., hype Dobson reopening, emphasize gratitude, encourage attendance at upcoming events and fundraisers)
 - Jen has 20+ volunteers for hockey stations for players, which will be taking place during meeting
- Board members need to be SafeSport certified ASAP and have background checks completed (background check good for 2 years); Dave will resend communication requesting that Board members complete

Administrative Closing

Next Meeting Date

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

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Paul Gorbald | Second: Justin Bradshaw (none opposed)

Meeting Adjourned: 8:07 p.m.