



Environmental Advisory Board
Regular Environmental Advisory Board Minutes
Tuesday, March 5, 2024
3:30 PM
130 Kearns Road
Small Conference Room

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Mike Steiner, Rebecca Paschal, Mary Wiener, Morgan Fixel, Joseph Goodman.

Board Members Absent: Andrew Wickes, Shashi Neerukonda,

Staff and other guests: Greg LeBlanc, Asst. Town Manager, Board Liaison; Mak Keeling, Vice President of Mountain Planning for Aspen Skiing Company; Darrell Smith, Snowmass Water & Sanitation District

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.a Approval of Minutes

[02-06-24 EAB Minutes.pdf](#)

Rebecca Paschal motioned to approve the 02-06-24 minutes. Morgan Fixel seconded.. Motion passed All in Favor.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.a Town Projects Discussion Continuation

Mak Keeling, the Vice President of Mountain Planning for the Aspen Skiing Company, is present today to offer the board background information on the ASC master plan. The board has specifically invited Mak to assist in refining its recommendations concerning the ASC Master Plan for the Town Council.

Mak pointed out the Master Plan is updated every 10 years, and the Forest Service has agreed upon the current activities in this updated version. The environmental plan will go through the Federal Environmental approval process.

Mak discussed the main changes that will occur over the next few years and then opened the floor to questions. The entire ASC Master plan can be viewed using the link at the end of this item.

Questions from the Board:

Q: Are the lift upgrades a need or a want, and what would the effects of the increased load capacity be?

A: The lifts are old and need to be replaced. The capacity won't change much, but the comfort level for the guests will improve significantly. Snowmass Village has limited parking space, so you won't see an increase in traffic.

Q: Are you controlling summer capacity to protect trails and the environment?

A: The Elk Camp Chair is the only lift operating in the summer. Trail managers, patrol officers, and Town Animal officers work together to monitor summer trail usage.

Q: Is there any new technology for less water usage for snowmaking?

A: The ASC is continually working on ways to improve the snow guns such as shifting their running times to avoid peak hours. Future snowmaking will not use less water, but the guns are more efficient, and the ASC does not need additional water rights.

Q: With increased capacity, what is being done to educate guests to be better stewards of wildlife and the environment, and what is the ASC doing?

A: The ASC hopes to be 100% green by 2030. They are working with Snowmass Water and Sanitation to get the message out about decreasing the use of plastic bottles. Mountain restaurants have switched to composting, and some are already 100%. Several of the kitchens are already 100% electric. SkiCo is a leader in change and electrification. Auden Schindler with the SkiCo Environmental dept. is continuously working on new ideas for environmental change for the better.

Q: Has there been anything that the Forest Service has not approved in the past?

A: We tried to include two Mountain huts/lodges in the master plan. Initially, they were approved, but later, they asked to have them removed.

The board thanked Mak for taking the time to speak with the Board.

A shared Google Doc was sent to the board for the recommendations discussed. No additions can be made after March 27th.

Greg will compile the information to present to the Town Council at the April 1st meeting.

Rebecca Paschal motioned to have Greg draft a letter to the Council outlining the items discussed in today's meeting. Morgan Fixel seconded. The motion passed All in Favor.

[Snowmass Mountain PUD Amendment Information](#)

Rebecca Paschal motioned to continue the discussion on Items 3b and 3c to the April 2nd meeting. Morgan Fixel seconded. Motion passed All in Favor.

3.b Small Gas-Powered Landscaping Machines-Discussion Continuation

3.c Outdoor Lighting Code- Discussion Continuation

4. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

See two continued items from above.

5. C.O.R.E. UPDATE

The electrification study update is slowly being processed. They have identified an engineering firm to start working on the smaller businesses.

6. HOLY CROSS UPDATE

Rate adjustment will start on April 1st for the customer charge.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

April 2nd

7. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

8. ADJOURNMENT