

**BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT
11 LONE PEAK DRIVE NO. 204
BIG SKY, MONTANA**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2024, 12:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

Kevin Germain	Chair
Sarah Blechta	Vice Chair
Grace Young	Secretary and Treasurer
John Zirkle	Director

STAFF:

Daniel Bierschwale	Executive Director
Jackie Haines	Director of Economic and Strategic Development
Kristin Drain	Finance and Compliance Manager
Tammy Estensen	Communications and Community Engagement Manager
Jenny Christensen	Deputy Director
Kim Beatty	Legal Counsel

Minutes taken by Bethany Young of Minutes Solutions Inc. from a recording

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

It was noted that five written public comments were received in support of appointing Tallie Lancey to the vacant Board seat. The written comments will be posted online.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Grace Young, seconded by Sarah Blechta, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2024, and August 14, 2024, Board meetings as amended. Motion carried.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Vacant Seat Candidate Questions

Five individuals applied for the vacant Board seat that expires in 2026. The seat was originally held by Steve Johnson and then by appointee Ashley Wilson, who has resigned from the seat. The candidate selected by the Board will go on the ballot for affirmation by the community in May 2025. Each candidate received a list of questions the week of September 23, 2024. Each candidate responded to the questions as follows.

4.1.1 Question One: Why are you interested in this position and is there anything you'd like to add missing from your letter of interest/resume?

Michelle Kendziorski, Stephen Pruiett, and Vahan Zerounian responded in person. Daniel Bierschwale read the written responses from Tallie Lancey and Philip Kedrowski.

4.1.2 Question Two: What is the biggest challenge in Big Sky, and how do you see your role as a BSRAD Director helping to solve that challenge?

Stephen Pruiett, Vahan Zerounian, and Michelle Kendziorski responded in person. Daniel Bierschwale read the written responses from Tallie Lancey and Philip Kedrowski.

4.1.3 Question Three: Highlight any relevant board or elected positions and how they have prepared you for this position.

Vahan Zerounian, Michelle Kendziorski, and Stephen Pruiett responded in person. Daniel Bierschwale read the written responses from Tallie Lancey and Philip Kedrowski.

4.1.4 Question Four: If appointed, would you run in the 2026 election to remain on the BSRAD board?

Michelle Kendziorski, Stephen Pruiett, and Vahan Zerounian responded in person. The question was not provided to the candidates in advance, so Tallie Lancey and Philip Kedrowski were unable to provide a written response.

4.1.5 Question Five: What are your connections to the Big Sky business community, and how do you think BSRAD can best support the business community as a whole?

Stephen Pruiett, Vahan Zerounian, and Michelle Kendziorski responded in person. Daniel Bierschwale read the written responses from Tallie Lancey and Philip Kedrowski.

4.1.6 Question Six: Please explain your past participation in BSRAD board meetings and how that influenced your decision to apply for the vacant board seat.

Vahan Zerounian, Michelle Kendziorski, and Stephen Pruiett responded in person. Daniel Bierschwale read the written responses from Tallie Lancey and Philip Kedrowski.

4.1.7 Question Seven: How would you handle disagreement around a decision made by this board with (a) a member of the public, (b) a fellow board member, or (c) a staff member?

Michelle Kendziorski, Stephen Pruiett, and Vahan Zerounian responded in person. The question was not provided to the candidates in advance, so Tallie Lancey and Philip Kedrowski were unable to provide a written response.

4.1.8 Question Eight: What do you hope to accomplish over the next 19 months of the remaining term?

Stephen Pruiett, Vahan Zerounian, and Michelle Kendziorski responded in person. Daniel Bierschwale read the written responses from Tallie Lancey and Philip Kedrowski.

4.2 Vacant Seat Appointment

4.2.1 Nomination of Vahan Zerounian

On a motion made by Grace Young, seconded by Sarah Blechta, it was proposed to appoint Vahan Zerounian to fill the vacant Board seat expiring in 2026. Kevin Germain abstained. Motion did not carry.

The Board discussed the factors in their decision-making prior to the motion. Following the motion, public comments were heard.

Katie Grice encouraged the Board to appoint Michelle Kendziorski, highlighting her community connections and significant range of skill sets.

Troy Nedved, President of Big Sky Resort, indicated that the Board should appoint the person best fit to represent the community demographic. He had encouraged Michelle Kendziorski to apply for her ability to properly represent their 2000 employee base.

Grace Young explained her reasoning for nominating Vahan Zerounian. John Zirkle expressed his respect for Vahan Zerounian, his skill set, and new perspective but wanted to select a board member that would best fit their need for community engagement. Sarah Blechta mentioned the difficulty of the decision and indicated that she was considering both Vahan Zerounian and Michelle Kendziorski. The Board voted to oppose the motion.

4.2.2 Nomination of Michelle Kendziorski

On a motion made by Sarah Blechta, seconded by John Zirkle, it was resolved to appoint Michelle Kendziorski to fill the vacant Board seat expiring in 2026. Kevin Germain abstained. Motion carried.

Following the motion, public comments were heard, followed by the vote.

Katie Grice stated that Big Sky Resort, the largest tax collector in and significant portion of Madison County supports the appointment of Michelle Kendziorski to the Board.

Sarah Blechta indicated that she was uncomfortable with previous public comments from Big Sky Resort employees. She believes that it is the person who should be voted for, not who they work for and how they need representation. She stated that her vote was for Michelle Kendziorski as a person, not a Big Sky Resort entity. Sarah Blechta shared her advice regarding the need to set boundaries as a mother serving on the Board.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Sarah Blechta, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting adjourned into closed session at 1:04 p.m.

GUESTS:

Vahan Zerounian	Community Member
Stephen Pruiett	Community Member
Michelle Kendziorski	Community Member
Katie Grice	Big Sky Resort
Whitney Montgomery	Coordinating Council of Big Sky and CEO, Big Sky Community Organization
Brad Niva	Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky
Emily Eckhoff	Community Member
Annie Mitzel	Big Sky Chamber of Commerce
Regan Teat	Community Member (via teleconference)
Troy Nedved	Big Sky Resort (via teleconference)

Chad Wilson
Clare Thayer

Big Sky Resort (via teleconference)
Community Member (via teleconference)

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Young

Grace Young (Nov 15, 2024 16:13 MST)

Grace Young, Secretary and Treasurer






October 1 2024 BSRAD Special BOD Minutes

Final Audit Report

2024-11-15

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