



Minutes of the December 28, 2017 APCA V Annual General Meeting

Present and invited persons:

- Eloi Rossier, President of the Commune of Bagnes
- Jean-Baptiste Vaudan, Vice-President of the Commune of Bagnes
- Florian Michellod, President of the Société de Développement de Verbier
- Joël Sciboz, Director of the Verbier Tourist Office
- Laurent Vaucher, CEO of Téléverbier SA
- Tim Watkins, member of the Friends of Verbier Committee
- Jean-Daniel Martin, Honorary President of APCA V

Brigitte Borel, President of the APCA V, opened the meeting at 4 pm, greets the persons invited present and read a message from C line Yamakawa, new Chief Operating Officer of the Verbier Festival. She declared that the meeting has been duly convened.

She presented the agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of:
 - The ordinary general meeting of 29.12.2016
 - The extraordinary general meeting of 3.8.2017
2. Report of the Committee on the past financial year
3. Approval of accounts and discharge of the responsible bodies
4. Budget for the 2017/2018 financial year
5. Election of the committee
6. Designation of the auditors
7. Miscellaneous and individual proposals

1. Approval of the minutes of

- The ordinary general meeting of 29.12.17 - No comments from the members. The minutes were approved without opposition.
- The extraordinary general meeting of 3.8.17 - No comments from the members. The minutes were approved without opposition.

2. Report of the Chair (B. Borel) on the past financial year



First of all, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their work throughout the year. Outside the committee meetings, we had many contacts to respond to requests from our members or to follow specific projects, such as redesigning the website.

In this regard, we are happy to have finally been able to put our new website online recently, with a new logo for the APCA V that you see on the invitation to the general assembly. Maarten van Geest, founder of Mountain Hub in Verbier, developed our website and created the new logo. I take this opportunity to thank him. The creation of a new site requires a lot of thought and many exchanges to define the appropriate content. In the end, despite the availability of Maarten, we were several months behind our initial schedule and also had some early hiccups, but the site works today. Our goal is to complete it going forward with useful information for the owners, whether they have a main residence or a second home.

In 2017, we continued to send you regularly the APCA V Newsletter, most of the time with *Nouvelliste* articles on the Verbier region or Valais. It is a valuable source of information for our members, and I would like to thank Burkhard Lücking (committee member) who reads the *Nouvelliste* carefully to select the articles likely to interest us. The reason I am talking about it today is because it is a real added value specifically for our members, many of whom are not yet taking advantage of it, either because we do not have email addresses or because they do not know about it. I encourage you to send us your email addresses.

Our summer General Assembly was held on August 3, 2017 in the Verbier Festival's Combins facility with the agenda of: an update on the Commune's projects, a presentation of the SIB group (Industrial Services de Bagnes) and a presentation on the VIP Pass.

I would like to thank Eloi Rossier, Florian Michellod and Joël Sciboz who are always present at our APCA V general meetings to inform us of the latest developments concerning Verbier and the Commune. I would also like to highlight the good relations of the APCA V committee with the Commune, in particular with its President Eloi Rossier, to whom we sent several requests during the year in connection with the concrete concerns of our members. I must say that our requests have always been taken seriously. We have intervened this year several times to require the adaptation of certain infrastructures to guarantee the safety of the users, about the nuisances created by the helicopters during the off-seasons and finally to ask that the introduction of the new trash bag tax be facilitated by transmitting clear information for everyone concerned.

In 2017, I personally continued to represent the APCA V on the SDV committee whose aim is to promote quality tourism for Verbier.

One of the events that concerned us greatly this year was the fire at the Sports Center last June, which destroyed the rink and the indoor pool. Fortunately, the new multipurpose room



that was under construction has had little impact and has recently opened. Eloi Rossier will give us in a moment an overview of the next stages of realization of the new Sports Center. Note that a temporary ice rink was built for the winter on the leisure park in the center of Verbier and that it is free.

On another topic, I remind you that the APCAVERBIER is a member of the Swiss Secondary Residences Alliance and the Valaisian Federation of Secondary Residences (FVRS2). Our vice-president, Nicolas Leuba, represents us there, and he will be candidate for the Presidency at the next general meeting of the FVRS2 in 2018. If he is elected, which is highly probable, Nicolas Leuba will succeed André Gossauer for a renewable term of one year. It is customary for the FVRS2 to organize a public debate every year. It took place this year in Sierre on March 18, 2017 on the theme of: "The contribution of secondary residents to the tourist economy of Valais". The purpose of this meeting was to advocate more collaboration and more dialogue between secondary residents and communal authorities. The FVRS2 wishes to deepen this theme in 2018. It will organize its next public meeting in our region in Le Châble at Espace Saint Marc on March 24th 2018. We are all invited, and the subject of the debate will be "Communes and Secondary Residences: what common future?".

2018 will be a year of celebrations as APCAVERBIER will celebrate its 50th anniversary, precisely the double of the Verbier Festival which will celebrate its 25th anniversary. To celebrate, we plan to organize a festive and convivial summer General Assembly at the end of July or beginning of August. We will give you the date and details in the course of the winter.

2018 will also be the year of commemoration of the Giétroz debacle that took place 200 years ago on June 16, 1818. For those who are not aware of this history, this event was a disaster that deeply affected the region when a natural dam created by the advancing glacier of Giétroz, which held a lake in the Mauvoisin area, failed. As a result, 20 million cubic meters of water poured into the Bagnes valley. Flooding and ice blocks caused the death of 44 people (including 34 in Martigny which was reached only 90 minutes after the opening of the breach). A feature film was shot in the region in 2017 and will be released in 2018. It recounts an important historical event in our region, with great effort to recreate the atmospheres and costumes of the time.

3. Approval of the accounts and discharges to the responsible bodies

The accounts for the financial year closed on 30 September 2017 and have been submitted in copy. The President gave the floor to Stéphane Fellay to present them. The situation of members who do not pay their dues is a concern, and the committee decided to appoint a



management commission among its members to evaluate the measures that we can put in place to overcome this problem.

Lloyd Gabioud, Trustee Fimob au Châble, Account Reviewer, filed his audit report. It recommends the approval of the accounts and proposes to give discharge to the committee for its management. The President discussed the accounts (annexed to these minutes), the report of the committee and the discharge to the responsible bodies. With no questions or comments, there was a vote on accounts / discharge to the committee / discharge to the auditor. All these points were accepted by the members present by a large majority.

4. Budget for the financial year 2017 / 2018

The budget (annexed to these minutes) was presented by Stéphane Fellay. Put to a vote, the budget was approved by a large majority.

5. Election of the committee

The current committee was presented for re-election: Hélène Maire, Michele Lloyd, Lotta Treschow, Michel Posternak, Thierry de Preux, Burkhard Lücking, James Jackson and Robert Veldhuyzen. No other candidates were proposed or presented by the members. The members of the committee were re-elected by acclamation. The committee also proposed to reappoint Brigitte Borel as President and Lotta Treschow / Nicolas Leuba as Vice-Presidents. They were so re-elected by acclamation. Each member of the committee will have a specific role and mandate which he or she will be accountable for.

6. Designation of the supervisory body

The renewal of the mandate to Fimob Trustee as auditor/supervisory body was approved by a large majority.

7. Various and individual proposals

The President then closed the part of the meeting is devoted to the ordinary general assembly. She then gave the floor to the guests.

The President of the Commune, Eloi Rossier, presented the major projects of the Commune of Bagnes.



An important project, which will transform Le Châble and the links with Martigny and Verbier, is located at Curala Square in Châble. The train station is under construction and will be inaugurated on November 5, 2018. Following a call for investors, two hotels are planned as well as several businesses, protected housing, and a public parking of 1'000 places. A new communal plan is being prepared.

In Verbier, the Besson land and the Ermitage car park are also the subject of a new commune plan, which should be approved in mid-January by the Communal Council. This project includes a covered car park at the Hermitage, the construction of a Maison du Tourisme, which will house the Tourist Office, and commercial surfaces.

With regard to the sports center, an extraordinary commitment from the Commune made it possible to operational the omnisport hall right now. Construction work on the swimming pool, restaurant and other infrastructure will resume as soon as the responsibility for the incident has been established. The complete opening of the sports center is now envisaged for 2021 / 2022.

The end of the reorganization of the traffic at the Central Place is planned for the end of 2018.

Permanent Medical Services. The regulation of the medical activity is decided at the cantonal level. This activity remains open for discussion, as it should be, in this country. In agreement with the Canton and the doctors, the Commune is seeking a durable and not seasonal solution. Discussions, sometimes difficult, with the cantonal authorities are ongoing but to date, no solution has been found to ensure permanent medical services for the winter 2017/18. Ambulance service, however, is available every day from 7h until 19h.

The next speaker was Laurent Vaucher, new CEO of Téléverbier HER. After presenting himself, he informed the assembly on planned or ongoing investments: 15 million francs for the Mont Gelé new installation, which has just been put into service; snow-making capacity for La Tzoumaz and the improved flow for the Tortin-Chassoure facility.

When asked about the construction of Savoleyres' new facility, Eloi Rossier took the floor to indicate that the new studies required in the Federal Court's judgment have now been completed. The file could therefore be un-blocked in 2018.

Jean Sciboz, director of the Tourist Office, then spoke to inform the assembly of the first results of the VIP Pass. The figures for the summer of 2017 were satisfactory, especially for free admission to the Téléverbier facilities, the use of postbus and the pool. A satisfaction



survey has shown that the VIP Pass is an asset for choosing Verbier as a destination and also shows a general satisfaction of users. The analysis cannot be pushed much further. The Tourist Office is still trying to simplify the administrative management of the VIP Pass. The benefits of the VIP Pass for the winter 2017/2018 (very limited, following the fire of the sports center) are only offered to owners of second homes. The services offered by the VIP Pass for the 2018 summer season will be virtually identical to those of the summer of 2017.

Answers to various questions from participants

Laurent Vaucher - For the current Savoleyres lift, the maximum use limit will be 2024.

Eloi Rossier - The real estate projects planned at the bottom of the Rouge are on stand-by.

Eloi Rossier - Explained contacts and relations between Verbier and China, that he has had for a few years with the authorities (Deputy Prime Minister), the embassy and Chinese investors. A first memorandum of understanding with the Chong Li region on technical assistance for the organization of snow sports during the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games is being approved. Other negotiations are under way and are progressing slowly.

Eloi Rossier - Talked about Sion's bid for the organization of the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. This is a different and better integrated concept. Basic infrastructures already exist. The Commune of Bagnes is a candidate for the organization of the freeride and ski mountaineering events and would be ready to organize also the Nordic skiing and biathlon events, currently planned at Les Diablerets, if necessary. The Commune President ended by saying: "To live is to dare!"

NB - Eloi Rossier will inform APCAVERBIER members about new regulations to limit helicopter flights over the station at our next Summer General Assembly.

There being no further questions or requests for the floor, the APCAVERBIER President closed the meeting and invited the attendees to an aperitif.

Annexes:

- 2017 budget
- New regulation on the trash bag tax