

Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.
Board of Directors' Meeting
September 29, 2022, 3:30 p.m.
Neighborhood Center Card Room/Zoom Conference Call

Members present: Kate Anderson, Dannai Clayborn, Bruce Day, Mike Delger, Trever Kirkland, Jerry Loendorf, Bob Mullen, Daniel Pocha, Paula Stephenson

Members absent: Andy Hunthausen, Mary Pat Penley, Amanda Robinson, Eric Schindler, Lois Steinbeck, Mark Young

Others present: Gale Anderson, Joan Anderson, Rod Applegate, Mindy Diehl, Diane Edgar, Sam Hall, Taya Hovan, Gretchen Krumm, Lori Ladas, Jean Leischner, Samara Lynde, Jim Marks, Kathy Marks, Liz Mogstad, Kelley Moody, Angela Nelmark

Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. and a quorum was present. Trever Kirkland asked for public comment and none was provided.

Approval of Minutes

Bruce Day made the motion to approve the August 25, 2022 Board of Directors' meeting minutes and the June 30, 2022 Finance Committee meeting minutes. Dannai Clayborn seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval to Apply for ARPA Funds for Purchase of Land and Infrastructure – Liz Mogstad
Liz Mogstad reviewed the previous discussion about the Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church project, and noted that soon it will be time to apply for ARPA funding for the project. This is a collaborative effort between Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Rocky, Helena Habitat for Humanity, the YWCA, the City of Helena, and Trust Montana. Rocky would develop tax credit rental housing, similar to the Red Alder property. Habitat for Humanity would build homes for ownership on the property, and the YWCA would provide housing for graduates of its program who need support. Visual representations of the proposed building plans were shared via PowerPoint. The ARPA funding request is expected to total \$2.4 million, which would pay for the lot and the initial infrastructure of Horseshoe Bend Road, which would be a city street at the edge of the property. Since a non-profit must be the applicant for the ARPA funding, Rocky would apply for the funds and spearhead the project. If the project does not receive the requested ARPA funds, the project would not be able to proceed. Liz noted that written commitments from the other partners in the project would be drafted and signed if the project moves forward. She also mentioned that Rocky could be part of the development of the project without committing to property management.

Daniel Pocha made the motion to approve Rocky's plan to apply for ARPA funding for the Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church project. Bruce Day seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report – Lori Ladas

Lori reported that landscaping at the Red Alder site is now moving forward. The native grass that was initially planted at the site never grew as intended, and the landscaper will work now to extend yards and improve the visual appeal of the site. Lori asked for questions or comments regarding the letter sent in response to the public comment at last month's meeting and the letter written as a response to the state regarding Rocky's recent monitoring visit. No comments were received.

Finance Report – Joan Anderson

Cash balance is \$1,407,851. This is a decrease from last month, though the cash balance often drops during September due to the timing of Rocky's federal grants. Joan expects another small decrease in the cash balance next month. Accounts payable is \$109,380.29, which is current. Joan mentioned that Rocky Mountain Preschool Center had taxable income this year, due to forgiveness of the Paycheck Protection Plan 2 loan. She worked with Anderson ZurMuehlen to determine an estimated tax payment. The program is expected to break even in FY2023. Lori added that the Preschool will receive \$50,000 from a second round of the Child Care Stabilization Grant.

Lori referenced the resumé and cover letter from Frank Cornwell included in Board packets. After hearing about the position from CTI, Frank spoke with Lori and followed that conversation with submitting his application. Upon completion of an interview and successful accounting test, he was offered the position contingent on Board approval. He brings good experience from previous employment with the State of Montana, as well as audit and public accounting experience. His tentative start date is October 31. Lori and Joan will coordinate training for Frank, and over time, Joan will transition to the vacant Budget Analyst position.

Jerry Loendorf made the motion to approve the hiring of Frank Cornwell as Rocky's Finance Director. Daniel Pocha seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting Business – Jerry Loendorf

Jerry reported that he spoke with the current officers of the Rocky Board, and all three were willing to remain in their positions for the upcoming year.

Jerry Loendorf made the motion to approve the appointment of Trever Kirkland as Rocky Board President. Daniel Pocha seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Loendorf made the motion to approve the appointment of Andy Hunthausen as Rocky Board Vice-President. Daniel Pocha seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Loendorf made the motion to approve the appointment of Eric Schindler as Rocky Board Secretary/Treasurer. Bob Mullen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry noted two vacancies to the Rocky Board of Directors, with the resignations received from Mary Pat Penley and Lois Steinbeck. Susan Geise, who previously served on the Rocky Board as a Lewis & Clark County Commissioner, has expressed willingness to accept a position on the Board again at this time.

Jerry Loendorf made the motion to approve the nomination of Susan Geise to a three-year term on the Rocky Board as a Private Sector Representative. Bruce Day seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Head Start Update

Due to a scheduling conflict, Head Start Director Ashley Peña-Larsen was unable to attend today's meeting. Lori asked for any questions regarding Ashley's written report and budgets. She reported that Rocky is working with Rocky's insurance carrier regarding the vandalism at the Head Start classroom at Helena Housing Authority. A memo from the office of Head Start regarding retention was briefly discussed, noting that recommendations remain the same as previous correspondence from the office.

Daniel Pocha made the motion to approve the Head Start Director's Program Report and Budget as presented. Bob Mullen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AmeriCorps Seniors Program Presentation – Angela Nelmark, Kelley Moody, Samara Lynde
Samara Lynde began with an overview of the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The program supports other non-profit organizations and provides volunteers at Rocky. RSVP matches individuals age 55 and older with opportunities that use their skills or interests. The program serves at six locations: Meals on Wheels, Rocky Senior Center, Food Share, Rocky Go-Getters, and the Montana Talking Book Library. Volunteers also assist with special projects throughout the year. For fiscal year 2023, RSVP received a federal grant totaling \$50,000. Rocky matches that grant at 30% and the program also received an Agency on Aging grant worth \$5,000. Eighty volunteers are currently enrolled in the program, and that membership count is pretty stable throughout the year. Samara spoke about various events hosted by RSVP throughout the year, including an MLK Day of Service Event and an art show featuring two RSVP artists with proceeds benefitting Food Share. Volunteers are thanked for their service through events such as a volunteer recognition barbecue.

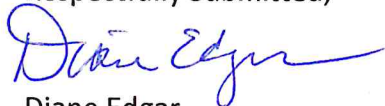
Angela Nelmark began her role as Program Director for the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) in December of 2021. FGP partners low-income seniors age 55 and older with students in classrooms to provide guidance and support. There are 36 active volunteers in the program, with most serving in Lewis & Clark and Silver Bow counties. Though most volunteers have been serving for less than a year, one volunteer has been with the program for 33 years. The majority of volunteers in the program are female. In FY22, 45 FGP volunteers served 34,911 hours in K-12, Head Start, and Early Head Start classrooms. Almost all students showed improvement by the end of the year. Volunteers serve at 9 participating sites. FGP receives a federal award of

\$386,345, with a non-federal share amount of \$42,927. Volunteers were recognized this year through events at the Spirit of Columbia Gardens Carousel and Gates of the Mountains.

Kelley Moody, Program Director for the Senior Companion Program (SCP), began her presentation by providing a more detailed description of the difference between her program and the Rocky Go-Getters from RSVP. The Senior Companion Program matches income-eligible senior volunteers with senior clients to provide transportation and companionship. Clients have a consistent schedule and are not served on an as-needed basis. For the current grant cycle, SCP receives a federal award of \$385,924, with non-federal share of \$43,440. In addition to a monthly stipend and mileage reimbursement, volunteers also receive an annual physical exam at no cost and a volunteer insurance supplement. The program currently has 34 volunteers assisting 144 clients. The communities with the most participation are Helena/East Helena and Butte. The average age of SCP volunteers is 73, and most serve between 5-10 hours per week. Volunteers were recognized at events in Helena, Butte, and Great Falls in FY22. Kelley reported that on September 1, AmeriCorps Seniors announced that the hourly stipend for FGP and SCP volunteers will increase to \$4 per hour on April 1, 2023. The Volunteer Service Year (VSY) requirement will also be reduced, with a funding formula of \$9000 per VSY versus the current \$6500 per VSY.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane Edgar
Executive Assistant

Approved by the Board of Directors:



Eric Schindler, Secretary/Treasurer

10/25/22

Date