

Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.
Board of Directors' Meeting
August 29, 2024, 3:30 p.m.
Neighborhood Center Card Room/Zoom Conference Call

Members present: Kate Anderson, Dannai Clayborn, Bruce Day, Susan Geise, Andy Hunthausen, Trever Kirkland, Teri Lilletvedt, Jerry Loendorf, Erin Lyndes, Daniel Pocha

Members absent: Jen Gursky, Bob Mullen, Niki Redford, Lindsey Richtmyer

Others present: Rod Applegate, Hayden Behm, Diane Edgar, Steven Ferriter, Joanna Halland, Taya Hovan, Lori Ladas, Samara Lynde, Kathy Marks, Liz Mogstad, Kelley Moody, Angela Nelmark, Ashley Peña-Larsen, Tom Robel

Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Trever Kirkland at 3:32 p.m. and a quorum was present. No public comment was received.

Approval of Minutes

Susan Geise made the motion to approve the July 25, 2024, Board meeting minutes and the April 25, 2024, Finance Committee meeting minutes. Daniel Pocha seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report – Lori Ladas

Lori asked Steven Ferriter to provide a couple updates. Steven invited all Board members to the Friends of Head Start Extravaganza, which will be held on Thursday, October 3 at the Delta. Silent auction items are being collected for the event. Steven also spoke about Rocky's impact report, which was distributed this fall.

Lori reported that Eric Schindler has resigned from his position on the Board of Directors, effective immediately. Lori has reached out to Jill Steeley to inquire about her availability to finish Strategic Planning sessions with the Board. The United Way is looking for a partner to assist with their purchase of the Helena Inn, and asked if Rocky might be interested. The Board discussed the importance of housing options in the community but expressed concerns about stretching the Rocky staff too thin by taking on a project of this size.

Lori and Liz Mogstad provided an update on the Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church project. Lori provided a copy of the buy/sell agreement and spoke about a meeting with the church representatives to discuss some concerns associated with the restrictive covenants and the development of Horseshoe Bend Road. The church sent a letter, and Rocky provided a response, which has not been answered at this time. With the new information provided, Lori asked the Board if they are still interested in pursuing the project. Board members commented that while the concept of the project is ideal for our community, it needs to fit within the budget allocated. The cost of construction has increased considerably since early project discussions, and the expenses involved in road development are a unique challenge. Discussion will continue with the Board after Rocky receives a response from their counter-offer letter.

Lori mentioned that the Jackson Street Center landlord has expressed interest in extending Rocky's lease for space in that building for three years. The lease document has not yet been received, and it will be brought to the Board for review when available.

General Fiscal Update – Lori Ladas

Cash balance today is \$2,367,784, and accounts payable balance is \$38,240.33. Lori reported that the Finance Committee met earlier today, and during that meeting Jonathan Schmitz from WIPFLI spoke about a new financial statement document which will pull information directly from Rocky's MIP software. This will help staff prepare for regular reporting to the Board. Fiscal staff have been closing out accounts for year-end and preparing for the annual audit. The audit entrance conference is scheduled for September.

Executive Committee Update – Trever Kirkland

Trever reported that after the last meeting, the Executive Committee approved a change to the Head Start funding request for camera purchases, increasing the approved request amount to \$70,000. The committee approved this decision without a meeting, and it was unanimously approved by all committee members.

Susan Geise made the motion to ratify the approval of the increased funding request for Head Start. Andy Hunthausen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee Update – Jerry Loendorf

Jerry reported that current officers Trever Kirkland and Andy Hunthausen have agreed to serve another term as President and Vice President. With Eric Schindler's resignation from the Board, the Secretary/Treasurer position will need to be filled. Susan Geise expressed interest in the position. Election of officers will be held at the annual meeting in September. Daniel Pocha is planning to retire from the Board at the end of his current term. Jerry asked all Board members to reach out to any contacts who might be a good fit for the Rocky Board of Directors.

CSBG Workplan – Kathy Marks

Kathy provided an overview of the CSBG Work Plan for 2024. She explained how the reporting is based on a variety of domains, and highlighted which Rocky programs have services or outcomes within each of those domains. The Education and Cognitive Development domain includes Rocky Mountain Preschool Center, Head Start, and the Foster Grandparent Program. Rocky's Homebuyer Education classes fall under the Income and Asset Building domain. The Housing domain includes not only Rocky's Affordable Housing program but also Energy Services, the Emergency Solutions Grant, and the Housing Stability Grant. In the area of Health and Social/Behavioral Development, contributing programs include the AmeriCorps Senior Programs, Head Start, Senior Nutrition, and Rocky Aging. The Rocky Board falls under the Civic Engagement and Community Involvement domain, along with Rocky's volunteer programs, Head Start, and Senior Nutrition. Kathy thanked the Program Directors for providing the data and explanations for their programs, which were used to create this workplan.

Andy Hunthausen made the motion to approve the 2024-2025 CSBG Workplan as presented. Daniel Pocha seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Head Start Director's Program Report and Budget – Ashley Peña-Larsen

Ashley reported that Policy Council will start up again in September. She asked for any questions or comments from her written report. Head Start is fully staffed and is just one child short of full enrollment as the school year begins. The budget looks good for being three months into the new grant. The start of the new year is reflected in the increases in spending on the Head Start budget.

Susan Geise made the motion to approve the Head Start Director's Program and Budget Report. Andy Hunthausen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Head Start Self-Assessment – Ashley Peña-Larsen

Ashley asked for any questions after review of the self-assessment, which was included in Board packets. She said the creation of this document involved a lot of great discussion of program strengths and needs. One major challenge noted was staff connection, especially with multiple program sites. The turnover rate for new staff was also addressed. Ashley noted that Head Start will sign two new contracts for mental health consultants for this school year.

Daniel Pocha made the motion to approve the Head Start Self-Assessment as presented. Susan Geise seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

AmeriCorps Seniors Program Presentation – Samara Lynde, Angela Nelmark, Kelley Moody

Samara Lynde provided an update of the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). RSVP has 92 current volunteers, who served 8,926 hours last year. RSVP volunteers provide a variety of services, both at Rocky and in the community. The largest volunteer group within RSVP works with Rocky's Meals on Wheels program, with 46 RSVP volunteers involved. RSVP's newest program is the Rocky Go-Getters, who provide transportation to medical appointments and grocery shopping for older individuals unable to drive themselves.

Angela Nelmark spoke about the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP). Foster Grandparents provide mentorship and support to children in settings ranging from Early Head Start to K-12 schools. FGP has 40 volunteers, who served 31,328 hours last year. Volunteers served in 24 stations within the service area, impacting 1,242 total students. Angela provided testimonials from the schools where Foster Grandparents serve, and also comments from the volunteers themselves, expressing the benefits of the program in their lives. Angela closed her presentation by talking about Danette Mulcahy, "Grandma Dan", who has served as a Foster Grandparent for 35 years and returned to the classroom again this fall at the age of 94.

Kelley Moody then presented information about the Senior Companion Program (SCP). In fiscal year 2024, 46 volunteers served 26,792 hours and travelled 76,787 volunteer miles. Volunteers provide transportation to the grocery store, medical appointments, senior center activities, personal appointments, as well as companionship and respite. Clients are offered a consistent schedule of one or two days per week, depending on individual needs. Clients are not assisted on an as-needed basis. The average age for volunteers is 74, and most volunteers have been with the program for ten years or less. The current volunteer who has been with the program longest has served for 21 years. Kelley spoke about the program's recruitment efforts and volunteer recognition, as well as the positive impacts of serving as a Senior Companion based on volunteer surveys.


The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane Edgar
Executive Assistant

Approved by the Board of Directors:



Rocky Secretary/Treasurer

Sept 26, 2024

Date