

SCFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 24, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Minutes

SCFD Board members present: Chairperson Jacki Cooper Melmed, Vice-Chair Councilperson Jamie Torres, Secretary Dan Brown, Treasurer Suzanne Crawford, Gino Greco, Tamra Ward, Teresa Valerio Parrot, Amos Kazzaz, Randy Perlis, Eva Henry, Patty Salazar

SCFD Board members not present: n/a

SCFD staff present: Executive Director Deborah Jordy, Deputy Director Jessica Kato, Program Officer Dana Manyothane, Program Officer Tim Murphy, Program Officer Kirsten Lang, Communications Manager Emma Mantooth, Executive Assistant Arlene Hicks

1. Introductions and Quorum Determination

Chair Jacki Cooper Melmed called the meeting to order at 12:59 p.m. followed by introductions. A quorum was present.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Tamra Ward motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Suzanne Crawford seconded. Motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

3. Approval of February 27, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Amos Kazzaz motioned to approve the February Board meeting minutes. Gino Greco seconded. Motion to approve the February Board meeting minutes passed unanimously.

4. Reports

4.1 Treasurer

Suzanne Crawford stated that the February 2025 SCFD sales and use tax revenue was \$6,456,065.20. The 2025 year-to-date (YTD) sales and use tax revenue is \$12,608,899.80. This compares to YTD 2024 sales and use tax revenue of \$12,508,853.19. The variance is \$100,046.61, a 0.80% increase in YTD 2025 over YTD 2024.

4.2 Chairperson

Chair Cooper Melmed reminded the Board that next month's (May) Board meeting will be in person at the Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance starting at 1:00 p.m. Tier I leadership will present their annual updates.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Brian Vogt at the Denver Botanic Gardens on Thursday, June 12 from 5:30-7:30pm. Please save the date.

4.2.1 Executive Search Committee

Tamra Ward, new Executive Search Committee Chairperson, said the committee continues to work closely with Kittleman & Associates. The Executive Director position description has been released to the public. The description was crafted with input from surveys and interviews with SCFD stakeholders, including grantees, Board and staff. Applications will be accepted through May 5th. Raylene Decatur at Kittleman is also actively seeking candidates for the position. Anyone who knows a potential candidate is invited to contact Tamra for connection to Kittleman. The committee's goal is to have a new Executive Director in place in August 2025.

5.3 Executive Director

Deborah Jordy presented the following updates:

- SCFD's documentary, "The Art of Growth", previewed on April 21st at the Sie Film Center. Thanks to Patty Salazar and Tamra Ward for attending the screening. The film was directed by Cynthia Cazan-Garin of Ajar Films, and we are hoping it will air on Rocky Mountain PBS and other outlets in the future. There will be one more sneak peek on Wed. April 30th at Denver Museum of Nature and Science, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Special recognition goes to Communications Manager, Emma Mantooth, for her yearlong dedication to this project!
- Jessica Kato and Gloria Nedved are working closely with CliftonLarsonAllen on SCFD's 2024 audit. The final audit will be presented to the Board at the July meeting.
- Upcoming grantee deadlines:
 - Wed. May 7th at 4:00 p.m. for Tier I Certification Reports
 - Wed. June 11th at 4:00 p.m. for Tier II annual submissions
- The Program Officers have processed 277 Tier III grant applications. Between now and the end of May, the Program Officers will attend numerous study sessions with the County Cultural Councils where each application will be reviewed and scored.
- The 2025 Eligibility Application is now available on the SCFD website, along with the basic eligibility requirements. Please share this information with nonprofit organizations that are interested in receiving a grant award from SCFD. Achieving eligibility is the first step in the SCFD funding process. The application deadline is Wed. September 10th at 4:00 p.m. Current SCFD grantees are already eligible and exempt from this process.

5. Resolution 25-03: Pertaining to the 2025 Tier III Budgeted Distribution

Teresa Valerio Parrot moved to approve the Resolution. Dan Brown seconded. Resolution 25-03 was unanimously approved.

6. 2016 Reauthorization Panel Discussion – Damon Barry, Dan Hopkins, Kathy Kucsan, Peg Long & Elaine Torres

As part of the ongoing education process for reauthorization, Executive Director Jordy welcomed several individuals who were deeply involved in the 2016 reauthorization of the district. In 2016, Damon Barry and Elaine Torres were

gubernatorial appointees, Dan Hopkins represented Arapahoe County and served as SCFD Board Chairperson, Kathy Kucsan represented Boulder County and served as SCFD Vice-Chair and Peg Long was SCFD's Executive Director.

The panelists answered the following questions:

1. What was the vision/goal of the board for the process leading up to the 2016 reauthorization?
2. What worked well for the board during the 2016 reauthorization?
3. Can you speak to Staff/Board relations and its importance?
4. What do you see as potential upcoming challenges for the current board as they move toward renewal in 2028?

Tamra Ward thanked the panel for providing valuable food for thought.

Vice-Chair Torres suggested we communicate SCFD's value to the community by tapping into the personal stories and memories district residents have with SCFD funded partners.

Chair Cooper Melmed asked the panel how they were able to determine their role as Board members through the reauthorization process. Dan Hopkins stated that Board members play a crucial role in crafting the language presented to the legislators and voters. Damon Barry spoke about the importance of consistent messaging when speaking with and listening to various stakeholders with different goals. Elaine Torres mentioned that guidance from SCFD's legal counsel was helpful in delineating the responsibilities of SCFD and those of the campaign.

Teresa Valerio Parrot referenced a recent meeting with Kathy Kucsan where they discussed challenging moments during the 2016 reauthorization. She asked the panel how they handled interactions with grantees that were less than positive. Kathy Kucsan encouraged the Board to "be nimble" and avoid feeling personally affected by any opinions from the community.

7. Other Matters (new/old business)

None

8. Public Comment

None

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.



Secretary