

SCFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 22, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance
Meeting Minutes

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

SCFD Board members not present: Treasurer Suzanne Crawford, Tamra Ward

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

SCFD staff not present: Deputy Director Jessica Kato

1. Introductions and Quorum Determination

Chair Jacki Cooper Melmed called the meeting to order at 12:57 p.m., followed by introductions. A quorum was present.

2. Welcome from Bert Vescolani, President & CEO, Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda

Gino Greco motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Dan Brown seconded. Motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

4. Approval of April 24, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Amos Kazzaz motioned to approve the April Board meeting minutes. Vice-chair Jamie Torres seconded. Motion to approve the April Board meeting minutes passed unanimously.

5. Reports

5.1 Treasurer

In Suzanne Crawford's absence, Vice-Chair Jamie Torres stated that the March 2025 SCFD sales and use tax revenue was \$7,349,484.25. The 2025 year-to-date (YTD) sales and use tax revenue is \$19,958,384.05. This compares to YTD 2024 sales and use tax revenue of \$19,570,013.62. The variance is \$388,370.43, a 1.98% increase in YTD 2025 over YTD 2024.

5.2 Chairperson

Chair Cooper Melmed announced that there will not be a June Board meeting. The July Board meeting will be in-person hosted by Firehouse Theater Company. This is expected to be an important meeting. All Board members should make every effort to attend.

5.2.1. Executive Search Committee

In the absence of search committee Chair Tamra Ward, Patty Salazar reported over 100 applications were received for the SCFD Executive Director position. The search committee has begun reviewing the candidates and interviews will take place in June, with the final decision expected to be made in July. Please contact Tamra Ward with any questions.

5.3 Executive Director

Deborah Jordy provided the following updates:

- The recently concluded 2025 legislative session was “light” for SCFD-related issues. Two of the bills that were monitored by lobbyist Fofi Mendez were 1) HB 25-1005, Tax Incentive for Film Festivals and 2) HB 25-1247 County Lodging Tax Expansion.
- Program Officers are wrapping up Tier III grant application study sessions with the County Cultural Councils. Each county’s allocation recommendations will be presented to their county leadership over the summer, with final presentations to the SCFD Board in September. Deborah recognized Dana Manyothane, Tim Murphy, and Kirsten Lang for the many evenings and long hours they’ve dedicated to the Tier III grant process.
- Eligibility is open for nonprofits interested in applying for SCFD funds. Please direct any hopeful organizations to the SCFD [website](#) for tutorials and application instructions.
- The Tier II annual submission deadline is Wednesday, June 11th at 4:00 p.m. Grantees are always encouraged to submit early. This allows Program Officers to provide assistance if needed.

6. Tier I 2024 Distribution Certification

6.1 Panel presentation by Tier I CEOs (6 min. each)

Leaders from the Tier I organizations presented updates to the Board on the use of 2024 SCFD funds. They addressed the following issues specifically:

- How their organization is evolving programming to best serve the region
- How their organization is tackling resiliency and stability
- An initiative or program(s) the organization is especially excited about or proud of

The order of presenters was as follows:

1. Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance, Bert Vescolani, President and CEO
2. Denver Museum of Nature & Science, George Sparks, President and CEO
3. Denver Botanic Gardens, Jennifer Riley-Chetwynd, Interim CEO
4. Denver Art Museum, Christoph Heinrich, Frederick and Jan Mayer Director
5. Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Janice Sinden, President and CEO

Board members asked many questions and offered congratulations to the Tier I leaders for their community-enriching work.

6.2 Resolution 25-04: Pertaining to the 2025 Tier I Budgeted Distribution

Chair Cooper Melmed incorporated the resolution into record by reference. Teresa Valerio Parrot motioned to approve the resolution. Amos Kazzaz seconded. Motion to approve Resolution 25-04 passed unanimously.

7. Other Matters (new/old business)

None

8. Public Comment

None

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Daniel W. Brown", is written above a horizontal line.

Secretary