

MINUTES

Grand Junction Housing Authority
Board of Commissioners' Meeting
Annual Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2015
Stocker Stadium Hospitality Room
11:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Convening at the Stocker Stadium Hospitality Room for a luncheon buffet and the Annual Report Presentation of the Grand Junction Housing Authority (GJHA), Board Chair Chris Launer welcomed and thanked an audience of 50 individuals for attending.

2. Introduction of Board Members and Special Guests

Chris Launer recognized special attendees that included GJHA Board Members Scott Aker, Tami Beard, Chris Mueller, Chuck McDaniel, and Barbara Traylor Smith; Grand Junction City Council Members and key City personnel; and a representative from the office of U.S. Congressman Tipton. Mr. Jay Kole received special recognition. Chris Launer also paid tribute to the GJHA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jody Kole as the “heart and soul” of the GJHA with her passion and dedication to provide safe affordable housing for families in need.

3. Presentation of Annual Meeting

Chris Launer introduced Jody Kole who conveyed her appreciation for everyone believing in affordable housing and how that contributes to the entire community.

An excellent year for GJHA, Jody shared the following 2014 accomplishment highlights:

- Served nearly 2,600 total families.
- Helped to avert hundreds of family home foreclosures.
- Completed construction and leasing of the Village Park 72-unit Apartments.
- Added 100 new Vouchers to serve people with special needs, including domestic violence victims and homeless Veterans.
- Helped to prepare hundreds of families for responsible homeownership.
- Hosted the annual Colorado National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (CONAHRO) Conference at Two Rivers Convention Center.
- Celebrated the 40th year of service of the GJHA and initiated a public educational campaign that gives the community a better understanding of services provided by GJHA.

Jody said that “shoes” is a fitting theme for this 40th year of service. It is a graphic that is universally recognized. Shoes can perhaps convey information about a person and their situation but cannot tell the entire story... their heart, spirit, and what the individual has endured is unknown. Shoes invite you to get in touch with your own heart and feel more

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compassion for the people walking in other shoes. A calamity can happen to anyone, at any time, altering their life. With that said, Jody Kole invited the community to open its eyes and heart and become more understanding of the people that the GJHA serves and more cognizant of why the GJHA staff does what they do.

Jody announced two exciting initiatives for 2015. Designing the newest GJHA development for senior housing known as Highlands Apartments is underway, and progress is being made on a consolidated office building for agency personnel.

To close her presentation, Jody Kole said that the work of the GJHA continues with 1,831 families currently on the Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List seeking housing.

Chief Operating Officer (COO) Lori Rosendahl took the podium. Lori stated the focus of the agency has grown over time from serving the elderly/disabled and working families to an agency supporting numerous areas of client needs. An example of this is the award of 80 new Vouchers to the GJHA to serve the chronically homeless and the chronically mental ill in partnership with Mind Springs Health. Homeless Veterans are another population served by the agency with approximately 180 Veterans housed in the last year through the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers Program.

Lori Rosendahl highlighted Doors 2 Success, a supporting entity of the GJHA. This entity supports the agency's non-profit programs. Lori also introduced three of its Board Members attending today's Meeting. One of those non-profit programs, Family Self-Sufficiency, shines in the spotlight today.

With the help of the GJHA, countless individuals and families receive assistance to help better their lives. Attendees watched a video narrated by individuals who shared their personal stories, and enjoyed listening to three guest speakers that included Danette Buck, representing Dutch Afman, Clarence Litinski, and Kim Wheeler. They gave testimonies of their personal struggles and journeys to a healthy and stable life.

Closing her presentation, Lori Rosendahl said that the testimonies heard here today bear witness to self sufficiency by illustrating how individuals used assistance and chose to make their lives and lives of their families better and moved forward in life.

As the Meeting came to a close, Chris Launer recognized Chris Mueller for his service to the GJHA as Board Vice Chair for the past three years.

All attendees received a copy of the 2014 Annual Report for the Grand Junction Housing Authority.

4. Adjourn

The Annual Meeting presentation concluded at 12:30 p.m.