



GO LAKE HAVASU

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 8:30am

314 London Bridge Rd., Conference Room

ATTENDANCE: Steven Boswell, Shawn Buckley, Vice Mayor David Diaz, Joelle Dickinson, Lindley Diskin, Chair Kristina Gallo, Tim Giles, Becky Goldberg, James Gray, City Manager Jess Knudson, David Robbins, Dan Roddy (zoom), Janene Samp, Amy West, Jon Westergaard

ABSENT: Rachael Atkinson, Andrea Helart, Ryan Reynolds, Rick Riegler, Vicki Runyon

PUBLIC / GUESTS: Public: Taylor Harrison, John Shaff, Pam Swenson, Today's News Herald reporter Daisy Nelson

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

- The meeting was called to order at 8:30am by Chair Kristina Gallo followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- No call to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Board Members present reviewed March 25, 2026 meeting minutes.
- *Becky Goldberg made a motion to approve March 25, 2026 board meeting minutes as written, seconded by Jon Westergaard. With no further discussion, all Board Members present approved. Motion passed.*
- Minutes will be filed for audit.

PARTNER REPORTS:

PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- James Gray said there were 6,300 attendees at April's First Friday.
- He said they are losing four board members and have five candidates so far. Gray said voting takes place next month and if anyone had any likely candidates in mind to let them know.
- Gray said the band performing at the next First Friday event is an all girl pop punk band from San Diego called Flailing Idiots.

LAKE HAVASU AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

- Janene Samp reported for Andrea Helart who was unable to attend the meeting. She said the next mixer will be held at Mohave Mist and Spa.
- She said the Chamber's Empower Elevate: Women's Business and Wellness Retreat is this weekend. Samp said the registration price is lower if you register online and use a promo code and that there was a lower group rate if you register a group of five.



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- Becky Goldberg said nominations for the upcoming Chamber Awards Dinner needed to be submitted by May 1. She said they are accepting applications for the next Leadership class and added that 22 students graduated from the CEI program.

LAKE HAVASU HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION:

- Joel Dickinson said they've wrapped up Top Chef at the end of March. She said The Nautical took home the win along with the People's Choice awards and the Glitch Barcadium won the mixology award.
- She said they are also actively looking for board members.
- Their next project is to bring back the Pineapple Races in October by partnering with the Chamber's Hospitality Industry Alliance.

LAKE HAVASU MARINE ASSOCIATION:

- Rick Riegler was unable to attend. Lindley Diskin provided details about the LHMA Boat Show happening this weekend.

ARIZONA STATE PARKS:

- Dan Roddy zoomed in from Verde Valley Rocking River Ranch State Park. He said the LHMA Boat Show is at Windsor Beach this weekend and Desert Storm takes place next weekend. He said they will be assisting the Chamber's volleyball event at the State Park.

CITY OF LAKE HAVASU:

- City Manager Jess Knudson said City Council awarded new pavement for all of Acoma Blvd.
- He said groundbreaking on the second bridge will probably not happen until first quarter of 2027.
- Knudson said the City will acquire a refurbished ladder fire truck. He said to refurb an existing truck take sixteen months and \$900,000 where a new ladder truck can be purchased for \$2.5M and would take 5 years to receive it due to a long waiting list.
- He said public works is doing a great job at managing 40+ projects that are either in design or currently in construction.
- There is a ribbon cutting today at Rotary Park for new adaptive playground equipment. Knudson there was a budget work session on capital projects tomorrow at 9am.
- Vice Mayor David Diaz said that Parks and Rec Director Gabby Vera resigned and the City will be looking for her replacement.

CEO REPORT:

- CEO Shawn Buckley presented the April 2026 summary dashboard for March activities. He said March financials were close to budget with a -1.9% variance.
- He said website visitation in April had increased but duration of visits had considerably decreased and said he would look into the reason for the decrease. Buckley said he is considering applying an AI agent to the website to boost visit duration.
- Buckley said Facebook followers and reach has increased but engagement was down and Instagram numbers had increased month over month.



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- He reported on paid media including Meta, Google, Viant and Datafy and added that Lake Havasu City is in the running again with Conde Nast Traveler's 2026 Readers' Choice Awards.
- He and staff Tanya Pickren attended Go West Summit in Las Vegas where they had 52 appointments and has already received solicitations. Buckley said there was strong interest from Germany, England, Eastern Canada, Central and South America and Asia.
- He said the booking engine is still thriving but not strong enough.
- Buckley said sales and foot traffic at the Visitor Center is higher than February but lower than March of 2025.
- He said lodging tax and restaurant/bar tax was lower in January when compared to December 2025.

BOARD REPORTS:

Executive Committee Report:

Financials:

- March 2026 financial statements were provided to the Board for approval.
- *Jon Westergaard made a motion to approve March 2026 financials as presented, seconded by Becky Goldberg. With no further discussion, all Board Members present approved. Motion passed.*

NEW BUSINESS:

- Chair Gallo reiterated that in the March 2026 Board meeting Vice Mayor David Diaz mentioned that the City had expressed interest in adjusting the City Contract by moving City Council Ex-Officio Board member to a voting position and the City Manager would be moved to an Ex-Officio position on the GLH Board. She said she receive a copy of the proposed amendment from the City Attorney and provided a copy of it to Board Members present.
- Chair Gallo said the proposed amendment had been sent to GLH legal counsel for review. Legal counsel said that GLH bylaws would also have to be amended to align with the city contract to be in compliance.
- Becky Goldberg expressed concern regarding confidentiality and the protection status for the Board and City Council. Vice Mayor David Diaz didn't feel it would be an issue since the amendment was reviewed by the City Attorney. He felt that elected officials had a responsibility to be knowledgeable of and also be part of financial and overall general decisions that are made in executive sessions to counter the lack of transparency that is perceived by some of the public. Amy West made a point that executive sessions are confidential. Tim Giles asked Vice Mayor Diaz what were the transparency issues he was referring to. Vice Mayor Diaz responded that some issues had to do with how money is being spent and some regarded decision making. After some back and forth discussion the consensus was that transparency is important.
- Knudson said that he is an ex-officio member of the PED Board and the City Council Member is a voting member. Board Members commented that Knudson has been a valuable voting member of the GLH Board.
- Vice Mayor Diaz asked if the Board would vote to amend the bylaws in a timely manner so that the city contract amendment could be voted on at the April 28 council meeting. Chair Gallo said the Board will be as prompt and mindful as possible.



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OLD BUSINESS:

- Chair Gallo said staff Coleen Pruyn sent an email notice to the Board in March to remind them that applications for Board and Executive Committee positions needed to be submitted. The Nominating Committee will meet to review applications and present their nominations at next month's Board meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Board and Executive Committee vote.

MOVE TO ADJOURN:

- *Janene Samp made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Jon Westergaard. With no further discussion, all Board Members present approved. Motion passed.*
- Meeting adjourned at 9:20am.
- Next Board meeting: **May 20, 2026 at 8:30am.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Coleen Pruyn,
VP of Operations