

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting: March 11, 2012

It was determined that a quorum of Board members was present and the meeting was called to order by Craig W., at about 6:45 pm PST. Also present were: Carola Z., Kathleen G., Dru B. Joe M., Mahala K., Robert S., Njon W., Bob O. and Tim R.

January 2012 Minutes: Tim

Carola's name was spelled incorrectly in last month's minutes and she requested that this be corrected, which Tim agreed to do.

With this request to be done, it was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the January 2012 Minutes. The minutes can be found at:

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/liferingBOD/files/2012/>

Financial Report: Carola and Robert

Carola took this opportunity to thank all members for voting for her to be the next Treasurer, replacing Robert. Her "Profit and Loss" statement for January was posted on the LifeRing website and details can be seen there:

http://lifering.org/archivefiles/2012/financials/01-2012_LifeRing_Income_&_Expense_Report.pdf

In summary, for January 2012, Total Income was about \$4.4K (January 2011 - \$2.4K), Gross Profit was about \$3.5K (January 2011 - \$1.9K) and Total Expenses were about \$4.0K (January 2011 – about \$2.8K), resulting in a net income for January 2012 of about -\$0.5K (January 2011 – about -\$0.85K).

Public and Private Board of Directors Webpage: Robert and Others

Robert discussed the Board of Directors page on the website and whether this information should be public or private. He suggested that it be password protected, being accessible only to the Board of Directors. He also commented that there might also be a public page, with the agenda, financial statements and a synopsis of the minutes posted on it with sensitive material omitted. This was agreed to, in the spirit of openness. Craig suggested that for this edited version, names could be simplified by using only first and last name initials or no names at all. Tim offered to write two versions of the Minutes in this regard. Robert commented that since Board names are already public, those full names could be used. Joe suggested that the agenda for the next Board Meeting also be posted. The approach of public and private versions of the minutes was approved by consensus.

LifeRing App for iPhone: Robert and Others

A web developer, who is a new member to LifeRing, contacted Robert with the desire to create a phone app, initially for the iPhone, but with the expectation that it could be ported over to the Android platform. This app would provide information on how to find meetings, etc., much like is now present on the LifeRing website. Such an effort would be Phase I, with additional features added to it later. The Apple Store charges \$99 to post the app. This is a one-time application fee. The issue of LifeRing control of the app was raised. It was agreed that Njon and Joe would pursue the details of this arrangement with the web developer.

CPA Engagement: Robert and Others

Robert discussed some work that Linda S., who is a CPA, did with him. Linda has submitted a Letter of Engagement, should the Board decide to hire her. The letter is on the website. Mahala commented that even if Linda were to donate her services, she could not be given a tax credit for such.

In the next few months we need to decide whether we want to file a 990 EZ form with the federal government or simply just a postcard. Mahala commented that as we start to apply for funding, the federal government wants to see both our 501 c (3) as well as the 990 EZ form. Carola offered that since we are under \$50K, we need only file the postcard. Robert commented that for the past three years, we have been filing the 990 form. It was decided that this issue was not one that the Board need address at this time and it was taken off-line.

Planning Report: Lynn

There were no updates this month.

Fundraising: Mahala

Mahala has subscribed to a fundraising online database that allows searchable access for about 10,000 foundations. She has also enrolled in a three-day class on similar matters.

Outreach: Mona H.

There were no updates this month.

New Convenors: Craig and Mona

There is interest in Portland, ME, in having a LifeRing meeting in their community recovery center. There is a person there who would like to be a convenor and has been in contact with the director of the community center.

We now have about 50 potential convenors on our list. Most are still in the planning stage, having not met the six-month requirement.

Mahala commented that Salt Lake also has a similar community support facility and they are also interested in having a LifeRing meeting at their site. Additionally she is working with the University of Utah that has shown interest as well.

In general, she believes that organizations are actively looking for recovery management systems other than AA, and this may present new opportunities for LifeRing.

Annual Meeting: Njon, Mahala, Laretta, Craig and Kathleen

There were no new updates from Njon. To reiterate from last month, the LGBT Center has been reserved for this meeting. It is reserved for May 11 and 12. For Sunday, May 13, another venue needs to be found. The Alano Club should be available.

Speakers for Annual Meeting: Joe and Kathleen

Activity to solicit speakers continues: From last month, we have one definite speaker. Joe has solicited some potential speakers from the Bay Area, but there so far has been little response, except from some persons who have said they cannot do it. Specifically, Dr. Timothy Durazzo, one of our speakers from last year, will not be able to join us this year. However, Joe has heard from Dr. John Monteroso who said that he would be able to come. It was agreed that further discussions can be done off-line for now, as there is still some time before final decisions need to be made.

“Friends and Family” Group Discussion: Laretta, Joe, Kathleen and Others

This discussion is related to the comment from Troy S. that there is interest in starting such a meeting in Modesto:

Laretta pointed out from the last meeting that there are by-laws (Article 1 – Purposes) which states that LifeRing supports persons in recovery and *those persons related to them, as well as the general public*. Accordingly, no changes to the by-laws need to be made.

Robert commented that insurance for the Modesto meeting would cost, at worst, \$200 per year, but would probably be covered under our existing policy at no additional charge. Joe has been the interface with Troy on this matter.

By-Laws Revisions: Craig and Others

The Board does not have authority over revisions. However, the Board can make recommendations and bring them up for a vote. Others also can do this, and Bob O. has recently done such. Bob no longer was participating in the call, however, so the Board did not pursue this subject.

Practicum Report: Kathleen, Mahala and Joe

After being out of touch for some time, Carolyn Harris has returned. Previously, upon looking at the proposal, Lynn thought it was too much like that which was already being done as part of the planning effort. Accordingly, Kathleen proposed that a survey be done which could include questions about some of the bi-law changes that Bob O. has suggested. We could also repeat the same survey that we have on the website from 2005. Ms. Harris is also willing to do some telephone interviews to gather information from people at the Board level as well as from the Founders. Kathleen requested some help in terms of coming up with questions for her. Mahala commented that she would be glad to help, and furthermore, in writing proposals for funding, it would be helpful to learn more about the makeup of our constituents; what are our initiatives that require additional funding, for example. It was agreed that Kathleen would set up a conference call this week among Carolyn, Mahala and her. Joe suggested that video tape interviews might be of interest. Mahala commented on the possibility of a workshop for board development at one of the Annual Meeting Friday sessions. She has a friend involved in such an effort who is interested in working with LifeRing. Regarding planning activity, Kathleen suggested that one area of focus might be on our international structure, and that this might be something that we could work with on the Friday session of the Annual Meeting.

2014 Annual Meeting: Craig

Bob O. has offered Sacramento for this meeting.

New On-Line e-Mail Group Update: Craig

Craig has started a new e-mail group online on “duel recovery” and he expressed some concerns that such a group would be appropriate since sensitive mental health issues may be involved; we are moving forward in this regard.

Board Members, Terms and Convenors: Craig, Carola and Joe

The subject was discussed. The terms of Craig, Carola and Dru will expire at the upcoming Annual Meeting and those seats would be open for election. Some of Bob O.’s proposals in this regard were discussed in his absence.

Carola commented that she would favor allowing persons not in recovery to be Board members. She also commented that she would *not* be in favor of expanding the Board to 12 people.

Joe commented that he and Lauretta discussed some of these issues earlier and they both felt that Board members should be in recovery.

In contrast, and in a treatment facility for example, a person not in recovery might temporarily convene a meeting with the understanding that such a meeting would be handed off later when one of its members reached the six-month sobriety requirement. That temporary person would have to be in agreement with the LifeRing approach and its 3-S philosophy. Joe also said he and Lauretta would favor keeping the Board member number at nine, but to increase the needed quorum number to five (some confusion exists at this time; the by-laws state that the quorum number is four).

Kathleen commented that she also would want to keep the board number at nine, and that a job description for board members should be developed. She also commented that having convenors that are not in recovery (such as in a treatment facility) is not consistent with our self-help philosophy. She would, however, and in agreement with Joe and Lauretta, be in favor of professionals starting to convene meetings on a temporary basis so as to initiate the meeting. Such would help our growth, much as Bob O. had articulated earlier. Kathleen feels strongly about the self-help definition and concept and would like to write an essay on that subject. All were in agreement that she should do this. Joe commented that he felt that the addiction professionals proposal was important enough to be put forward. A lengthy discussion on this matter followed.

Adjournment: Craig

There being no additional business at the time, Craig moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at about 8:00 pm, PST.

Tim R., Board Secretary

March 19, 2012