

Minutes of the LifeRing Board of Directors Meeting: September 14, 2014

A quorum of board members was determined to be present, and the meeting was called to order by Board Chair Njon Weinroth at 12 Noon PDT. Also present were Dan Carrigan, Mahala Kephart, Byron Kerr, Emily Marcus, Mel Madden, Joe Mott, John Owens, Robert Stump, Craig Whalley, and Tim Reith.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of the August 2014 Minutes and the Treasurer's Report.

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept both as submitted.

Appointment of Committee Chairs

It was moved to nominate Njon, Tim, Mahala, Robert, and Carola to chair respectively the Administration, Advisory Council*, LifeRing Press & External Relations, Member Support, and Revenue Committees. All motions were seconded and carried unanimously.

*This committee may be renamed.

All LifeRing members were encouraged to come forward for membership consideration in one or more committees, as were the chairs encouraged to reach out to the membership. An announcement to this effect will be published with chair contact information.

2015 Annual Meeting Update

Mahala is working on three venues, none of which are yet firmed up. A theme and speakers need to be decided upon soon. She asked that a committee be formed for this purpose. Njon will ask the Administration Committee to form an ad hoc committee to this end. Joe volunteered to help.

Communications Protocols Draft

Craig voiced a concern regarding the elimination of the Convenors List. Njon commented that it would still exist unchanged for now. Longer term it will be re-cast more narrowly.

Tim asked if "officers" should be included with "BOD members" in one of the three categories described. Njon commented that persons other than those on the board would be by invitation only on an as-needed basis.

It was moved to accept the draft as submitted. It was seconded and carried with one vote in opposition. It was agreed to send the draft to the Administration Committee to finalize groups and platform.

Suicide Prevention Guidelines Draft

Mahala worked with Illona to draft these guidelines and acknowledged her help. Tim asked the meaning of a “warm line” as it appears in the document. Mahala will insert a definition of it in the draft. This document is “LifeRing original” while drawing some elements from SMART Recovery’s Guidelines. Relative to the SMART version, it is shorter and targeted more specifically toward convenors. Njon requested that a modified version of it be created that would be distributed to the general membership. It was moved to accept the Guidelines as submitted (with the “warm-line” clarification). The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Mahala requested that posting it on the website be delayed until a version not targeted specifically for convenors was drafted.

Non-Discrimination Policy Draft

Mahala commented that a policy to this effect is needed to allow for the submission of a grant application to the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights Organization. The policy needs to be in place by October 1 to qualify for a grant from them. Byron asked if it would be appropriate to include political ideology in the list of categories that must not be discriminated against. Njon commented that this might be a subject for possible revision later. It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept the draft as submitted.

Mahala addressed the need to define and submit a LifeRing Outreach Proposal specifically targeted to the LGBTI Bay Area Community as part of the grant application package. Byron volunteered to draft a document that will include a plan, budget, and time-line. Joe will work off-line with Byron and Mahala for its preparation. The proposal would then be circulated to the BOD list. A board review is not needed. Robert commented that we don’t currently have a budget. He will need input soon regarding the funding that will be requested.

Committee Structure

The structure is in place and was approved last month, with the exception of some committee names. Njon suggested that further discussion be tabled until it is finalized. He will coordinate an email thread or Google Hangout to finalize it and bring it to the next board meeting.

San Francisco Convenors Meeting

The meeting was held during the week of September 7 and consisted of convenors from the Greater Bay Area. About 15 persons attended. Byron assembled a list (“roster”) of them.

Dan prepared a synopsis document that describes the meeting, with the inclusion of 25 to 30 items that were discussed. It is an informational document that should be distributed to the committees. Some items are immediately actionable such as a revision of the Opening Statement that was felt to lack clarity. Additional items discussed included the need for contact information and a convenor survey. Other action items may also be identified. The Membership Support Committee bears the responsibility of soliciting volunteer assistance as needed for that work. Mel requested that Byron’s “roster” be sent to him. Robert will send him Dan’s synopsis document.

Other BOD Matters

Robert commented that Albuquerque is starting a fourth meeting and they are asking if we could buy them a domain name and also if we could host them on our website. It was noted that every other location bought its own domain name, and they are not costly. Also, free hosting is available through many services. It was agreed that we would not support them with either, as doing so might establish a precedent for such, and possibly lead us to support all localities. We will, however, provide them with any guidance they need.

Robert started to send out new Charters and new Convenor Packages after confirming all group and convenor information.

Mahala commented that she is moving ahead with plans to meet with John Banks and others in Canada during her upcoming trip to Vancouver.

She also participated in a recent webinar sponsored by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). She will follow up to see if a recording of it is available.

Njon thanked Carola for putting together the next newsletter that is due out shortly. He also encouraged additional input to both the newsletter and the blog from all members.

Adjournment

Given that there was no other business, Njon moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm PDT.

Submitted by Tim Reith

Board Secretary

September 29, 2014