



LIFERING SECULAR RECOVERY MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY APRIL 10, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC ATTENDEES

The meeting was called to order by Sue at 1:06 pm PDT.

Board members present:

- ☒ Sue Betts (Chair/Interim ED)
- ☒ Anna Bedolla (joined 1:36PM)
- ☒ Bobbi Campbell (joined 1:08PM)
- ☐ Steve Gonzales (Treasurer)
- ☒ Lorraine Hull
- ☒ Rafal Klopotoski
- ☐ Mary Beth O'Connor
- ☒ Lisa Swing-Corney
- ☒ Michael Toal

Non-board members present:

- ☒ Robert Stump (Operations Manager)
- ☒ Michael A.
- ☒ Mike H.
- ☒ Ivona S.

Lorraine agreed to take notes for the minutes since Anna was not yet present.

Approval of Minutes

Bobbi joined the meeting at 1:08PM.

February Minutes: Lorraine advised that she made a couple of corrections to names. There were no other questions or issues. Lorraine made the first motion to approve, and Lisa made the second.

VOTE: Approved.

March Minutes: There were no questions or issues. Sue made the first motion to approve, and Bobbi made the second.

VOTE: Approved

Approval of Profit and Loss Statement

Sue asked if everyone had reviewed and if anyone had any questions or concerns. Lorraine asked who Reynolds was, and Robert responded that they were the account firm who is responsible for completing the 990 form. There were no other questions or issues. Bobbie made the first motion to approve and Rafal made the second.

VOTE: Approved

ONGOING BUSINESS — STATUS UPDATES

LifeRing Non Discrimination Policy

Sue asked Lisa what changes had been made regarding the issue around age protection language. Lisa advised that reference to age protection for over 40 has been removed. There were no other questions or issues. Lisa/Lorraine/Rafal all made the first motion to approve. It wasn't clear from the transcript who made the second.

VOTE: Approved

Secretary and BOD Members

Sue shared that Joshua has resigned as Secretary due to competing personal commitments. Sue wrote the February board meeting minutes, Lorraine wrote the March minutes, Anna will do the minutes for April. We will need to fill the Secretary position, which is an officer of the board, requiring at least 2 years of sobriety. She encouraged the BOD to keep an eye out for someone who might want to take that role on.

Sue also plans to reach out to each board member about their experience on the board, what they'd like to see moving forward, what is/is not working, and whether they plan to run again. She thanked everyone in advance for speaking with her.

Authorized Signer -- Checking Account / Credit Card

Sue, Lisa, and Lorraine are approved as signatories for the LR business account.

Sue asked Robert about the LR credit card. Per Robert, the card, which is through Chase, is under his name, and his personal assets are attached. Chase advised that until LR has more assets (>\$500K), LR wouldn't be eligible for a credit card and that it was rare for a small business to need one. The solution would be to cancel the credit card, thereby detaching Robert's personal account, and to replace it with a debit card. LifeRing has already been issued a debit card associated with this account. Robert advised that the vast majority of vendors are on auto-pay, which Robert reviews monthly, and that the ATM and debit card should be sufficient for our business needs.

There were no concerns with Robert canceling the credit card and having Chase issue a debit card. Sue approved.

Comeau Family Donations/Funding Proposals

Sue asked if there were any new funding proposals. Lorraine mentioned that Lisa had submitted the funding request for new in-person meetings, which the board has approved and which still needs to go to Steve, as treasurer, for approval.

Lorraine is working to identify a contract person to support us. She noted that the website is a high priority. Regarding the website, Robert noted that while there are internal discussions (with Lisa, Lorraine, and Sue), there is no web site committee. He suggested that we could identify internal or external resources to do work on the website and who we could pay on an as-needed basis.

Bobbi asked why we don't have a website committee. Michael T. mentioned the Tech Committee that meets every two weeks. After some discussion, it was agreed to add Bobbi to the Tech Committee as she can provide input about branding, user experience, graphics, promotion, etc., so that she can determine whether it would make sense to start a separate website committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director | Contracting development projects and training

Sue reiterated that we do not have enough money to fund an ED position, but that we might be able to fund a consultant to help us with specific projects. Sue has someone who she has approached to consider the ED or DD opportunity. This person has expressed interest and Sue is developing a proposal in alignment with Current Bylaws and Executive Search Committee objectives.

ACTION: Sue asked that BOD members review the current description of the ED position and potential development projects and see if there are any that might be suitable to contact as a consultant.

Logo Update for LifeRing Canada

Anna joined the meeting at 1:36PM

Sue shared that LR Canada was looking for our review and approval of the LR logo they are using. She shared her screen so the BOD could see the logo. There was discussion about how this logo is an improvement over the previous logo being used, and that LR Canada should have access to our style guide so that they could use the brand-approved colors. Michael T. mentioned that LR only has copyright protections in the US. Sue asked if anyone had any issues with LifeRing Canada using the new design and to give them access to the style guide to ensure they are brand compliant. There were no issues raised.

Sue brought up that there is a woman in Georgia who wants to run a meeting in Canada. She did not see any issue with doing this since Rafal, who is in Poland, runs meetings in the US. The only concern she could see might be around meeting liability insurance and asked Robert to speak to that.

Per Robert, since 2012 we've used the same insurance company in Berkeley, backed by NICA of Calif, which insures non-profits. Two types: one to protect Lifering and the BOD (\$1M policy) and one for in person meetings (\$1M) to cover damages to facilities. It covers both the US and Canada (not Mexico). Nothing to do with online meetings. Robert talked to the insurance company, and they could provide "cyber insurance" to cover online meetings. Lisa clarified that in-person meetings coverage is only if requested by the convener, and usually it's at the request of the owner of the physical property.

ACTION: Sue asked Robert to get more information about cyber insurance.

Relations | International Entities

Ivona S joined the meeting 1:46PM

Lisa is our international region rep. Relationships with international entities are not clearly defined, although they get the same charter as the US. The challenge is getting everyone together to discuss, due to time zones and availability, etc. First priority would be trademarks. Mary Beth is leading trademark questions, and Lisa suggested that it should be up to her on how she wants to proceed.

Sue asked whether this could be covered via email. Lisa explained this might not be suitable if there is a discussion. Michael says he knows guys in Ireland and one in Canada, one in Sweden, and thinks if we want to get a meeting, he could speak to contacts in Ireland. This can be put into place once an agenda has been developed.

ACTION: Lisa to talk to Mary Beth and see what next steps are.

DEI BOD Awareness

Sue asked Lisa for an update on DEI . Lisa has a couple of TED Talks on "ableism" and shared links.

<https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/e/2PACX-1vSTiFnqWEr7PLWhhhPhkF2COQN7vVZH S4oHDabyznssMFpxMFQZGVxgJ7pQ1Vw3IHBI1iTAgUDGCgls/pub>

ACTION: BOD to review the link

High Level Review of Finances

Steve was not present to provide the overview; however, Sue stated that we are looking good and could speak about donation. Currently, we are about \$3500 above Donorbox donations year over year. LifeRing has also received a number of sizable donations to be discussed during the Executive Session. At this time, LifeRing continues to run without a deficit. No questions about finances.

Committees and Workgroups Updates

Rather than go over the status of each committee, Sue directed the BOD to review the status dashboard.

Rafal mentioned he has updated Google spreadsheet to reflect coverage of meetings, so we know where we have needs. This only includes those meetings listed on Online Meetings Schedule posted on the LifeRing website. Asked whether we could list International meetings on the online meetings on our website since people in the US could attend. There was concern about whether international meeting details might change, but both Rafal and Michael reported that most meetings (Ireland for example) are fairly constant. Michael clarified with Rafal that the goal is to have all English-speaking meetings posted on the Online Meetings Schedule.

Robert said we would need to manually update the website to include International meetings. Lisa says that we didn't get much response when we've reached out to international meetings contacts. Michael says while US guests are welcome, some of the Irish meetings are getting large, and they are discussing how to manage. There was some discussion about whether we could use technology to make it easier for people to find a meeting, regardless of whether it was being hosted in the US or internationally.

There were no other questions about committees. Lorraine asked if she could provide an update about Cars 2 Charities, which she discussed last month. She confirmed that Steve had reached out to the accounting firm, which had no issues with us using this as a donation source. We just need to fill out a form in our taxes. Cars 2 Charities would take a 30% cut, and we get the balance. Lorraine asked for BOD approval to move forward with signing the contract. Sue made the first motion to approve, and Lorraine and Rafal both seconded.

VOTE: Approved

Regional Reps

Lisa had nothing to report from the Regional Reps.

Robert announced a new online meeting for survivors of domestic violence. Becky will be convening, and Anna will co-host. Scheduled to start the first week of May, on Mondays at 10:30am PST.

ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sue asked if there was any other business that the BOD needed to cover. There was not, and Sue adjourned the BOD meeting at 1:19PM.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mike H expressed frustration that the BOD minutes were not being posted to the website in a timely fashion. Sue explained the process for reviewing and approving the BOD minutes and financials and explained why there were delays in posting to the website. Mike H wants to put forward a bylaw change that minutes and financials are posted in a timely manner. Sue advised Mike H to contact Mary Beth, who would be able to guide him through the process to propose a change to the Bylaws, and provided her contact information.

Mike H sent Sue a list of every VA treatment center and wants to put together a VA project. Lorraine encouraged Mike H to bring his VA project to the MCC meeting.

Sue asked if there were any other topics for the Public Forum. Since there were none, Sue adjourned the meeting at 1:24PM, thanked those from the public who joined, and asked the BOD to stay for the Executive Session.

ADJOURNED: 1:24PM

Respectfully submitted on May 3, 2023 by
Anna Bedolla