

LIFERING SECULAR RECOVERY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Sue Betts called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM Pacific Time.

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
Sue Betts	√	
Bobbi Campbell	√	
Monica Foy	√	
Joe Franklin	√	
Rafal Klopotoski*	√	
Mary Beth O'Connor	√	
Njon Sanders	√	
Robert Stump	√	
Lisa Swing-Corney		√

* Rafal joined at 9:04 AM. Left at 9:26 AM

NON-BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Shane
- Kemper M.
- Mark F.
- Michael A.
- Laura M.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

NOVEMBER 2023 MINUTES

Njon requested a language change for the executive session.
Njon made a motion to approve the minutes. Monica seconded.

VOTE: Sue confirmed unanimous approval.

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Mary Beth made a motion to approve the November 2023 Financial Report. Joe seconded.

VOTE: Sue verbally confirmed unanimous approval.

ONGOING BUSINESS

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES

Mary Beth and Lisa met with pro bono counsel Cooley last week. They met with a new partner and associate who have expertise in international relations. The attorneys made some recommendations, and will draft a new agreement for international LifeRing chapters. The first draft should be finished by year end. After further input, the target for a second draft of the agreement should be ready in January.

WEBSITE REDESIGN

Robert is working with the designer on the initial redesign process. They have provided a static template and asked for feedback. Robert has consulted with Sue for feedback on palette, fonts, and other design decisions. There is a website redesign committee that will review the redesign, sharing incremental updates with the Board.

Sue mentioned that LifeRing paid KO Website Designers half of their fee.

ACCOUNTING SUPPORT – PRO BONO ALTERNATIVES

Robert has interviewed a CPA firm located in the Sacramento area. Njon provided Robert with a list of potential firms that may provide pro bono or discounted services. Robert will interview them as well. The goal is a firm that will help ensure LifeRing is following best practices.

The Sacramento firm recommended that four policies be posted on LifeRing's website. Lorraine, Sue, Robert, and Lisa are looking into the recommendations.

STRATEGIC PLAN

All Board members are encouraged to review their activities and write a short report on how we contribute to the Strategic Plan. The target is to have the reports ready for discussion at the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CONFLICT RESOLUTION WORKFLOW

Njon shared his improved flow chart for the complaint process. Mary Beth had expressed a desire that the Board be made aware of all complaints. Sue mentioned that complaints come through the official online complaint form, as well as through emails and phone calls.

Sue asked for an informal show of hands: is the Board comfortable with being informed about complaints without having to take immediate action on each complaint.

VOTE: Sue verbally confirmed unanimous approval by show of hands.

BOD FUNDRAISING

Sue targets Deadline 12/15 for each Board member to donate \$222.22. That will activate a matching grant.

DEI BOD AWARENESS – CONTINUOUS LISTENING TO STRENGTHEN DEI

Lisa's absent, but Sue shared a Forbes article on DEI and continuous listening. Sue also conducted a Zoom poll based on the Forbes article to gather anonymous data from all present on continuous listening. She will share the results in a future meeting.

REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe shared the November Treasurer's report. Discussion points:

- The report distinguishes Net Operating Revenue from Net Revenue. For LifeRing purposes, these amounts are identical.
- Revenue spike in April and September of 2023 reflect foundation donations.
- Cost of Goods Sold – refers to bookstore spending, for direct sales and Amazon sales.
- Paying the Director of Development and the KO account for the recent spikes in Expenses.
- Some months show negative Net Revenue. Those are months when expenditures exceed income.

LIFERING DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Sue shared Lorraine's report for November. Highlights:

- Preparation for Anschutz Family Foundation grant – the wording used in LifeRing's letter to VA administrators may help in this grant proposal.
- Lorraine has also engaged with the Daniels Foundation regarding the grant process.
- Sue will ask for Lorraine to meet with the Board for an update on her efforts.

LIFERING TEAMS UPDATES

LIFERING TEAMS PROJECTS REPORT

Board members encouraged to view report.

SEASON OF GIVING FUNDRAISING

Various appeals have gone out and are scheduled to go out in coming weeks.

WINTER HOLIDAY SOCIALS

Gatherings will be on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Eve. Target for timesheets to hit inboxes of potential hosts is Monday, December 11th.

Njon mentioned that for future gatherings we may want to collaborate with other support groups in shared spaces.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC BOD BUSINESS MEETING

Sue made a motion to adjourn the public board business meeting. Monica seconded.

VOTE: Sue verbally confirms unanimous approval. The public board business meeting closed at 10:21 AM Pacific Time.

LIFERING PUBLIC FORUM

Sue thanked Shane for his contribution before he left the meeting.

Michael A. had left the meeting, but Sue thanked him for his contribution as a convenor.

Robert mentioned he is restarting an in-person meeting in Union City in the coming weeks.

Laura question #1

Is it OK to post LR website content in Signal Messaging app conversations with her group?

- Answer – It's OK to share content with attribution. It's also OK to send links. The information on the LifeRing website is public. It's also OK for group members to get on mailing list.

Laura question #2

Do other convenors use messaging apps like Signal?

- Answer – Board of Directors has no guidelines for messaging apps, but it's OK to share public information.

Laura question #3

How can convenors know who committee chairs are, so that they can send suggestions to various committees?

- Answer #1– the general contact form serves as a central routing for suggestions and may be the best way to send suggestions.
- Answer #2—that seems impersonal. Board will look into better sharing of committee contact information.

Laura question #4

Online convenors have a private online group for accessing resources. Is there a similar online group for in-person convenors?

- Answer – Resources can be found in Convenors > In-Person Convening. There is no private information in those pages, so it is not password-protected.

Laura suggestion

There is a YouTube webinar that helped her with communication skills. She shared the link in the chat.

Kemper question

When Amazon stopped offering Amazon Smile, what was the loss?

- Answer – it varied, but roughly \$300 per month.

Kemper also shared his belly flop fundraising program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was held.

Item: Corrective Action Appeal

After a procedural discussion, Monica motion to deny the appeal of 90-day suspension

VOTE: Sue verbally confirms seven Yea votes and one abstention.

Item: Active complaint

Monica summarized the progress of the complaint she's handling.

Item: Minutes format

Brief discussion of meeting minutes' level of detail.

Respectfully submitted on December 16, 2023 by Monica Foy