

LIFERING SECULAR RECOVERY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 2024

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	√	

* Njon joined at 9:32 AM.

* Rafal Left at 9:28 AM, rejoined at 10:36 AM

OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Laura M.
- Kemper M.
- Robby J.
- Sarah S.
- Jakub
- Mark
- Ivona
- Cindy S.
- Alexis

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

DECEMBER 2023 MINUTES

Lisa made a correction to the discussion about the accounting firm published policy recommendations. Not two, but four individuals are evaluating them: Lisa, Robert, Lorraine, and Sue.

Lisa also requested that the record indicate, in response to Laura's fourth question:

- The Regional Reps provide resources for in-person convenors.
- Additional non-public resources for in-person convenors may be in a portal on the new website.

Bobbi made a motion to approve the minutes. Joe seconded.

VOTE: Sue confirmed approval with one abstention.

DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Joe made a motion to adopt the December 2023 Financial Report. Monica seconded.

VOTE: Sue verbally confirmed unanimous approval.

ONGOING BUSINESS

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES

Mary Beth and Lisa have engaged pro bono counsel Cooley to help make a more formal arrangement with LifeRing's international entities. They met with Cooley on Friday, January 12th, to provide feedback on Cooley's first draft of the agreement for international entities. Cooley is expected to provide a second draft, with simplified language, before the next Board meeting.

WEBSITE REDESIGN

Robert spoke about the working committee for redesign, who are discussing look and feel. Bobbi is working on a concept for the new front page of the website. The structure of the new site will be clear from this concept.

- The Meetings module of the new site is expected to solve the time zone issue, i.e. meeting times should reflect the time zone of the website user, not be restricted to the Pacific time zone, as it is today.
- The color scheme is also under discussion, but the LifeRing logo will not change.

Sue wished Mary Beth a happy sober anniversary and complimented her on her book, *From Junkie to Judge*.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Sue discussed the Strategic Plan, found on the LifeRing website. It's our roadmap on objectives, metrics, and methods for 2023-2024. Board members are encouraged to view the plan and see how our activities embrace the Plan's objectives. Lisa created the Plan, and today is the halfway point for this evaluation.

Some takeaways from Sue:

- More convenors needed
- Improve relations with stakeholders, showing appreciation
- Better understanding of variables to help with Board decisions:
 - Meetings
 - e-groups
- Ensure all collaborators are appreciated

Sue also asked for outreach volunteers from those present.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNUAL BOD EXPERIENCE POLL

Sue shared the results of the Annual Poll. Of primary interest, the call from those polled for more diversity. "Further steps will be urgently needed to reshape our communications and policies to be inclusive and equitable." The Board will review DEI in future meetings.

DEI BOD AWARENESS – DEI INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK AND STAGES

Lisa spoke about this month's resource, the DEI Integration Framework. January is a good time to review the framework's various stages of DEI Integration. According to the complementary third-party consultation, LifeRing is still in the Building Awareness stage, an accurate assessment.

Sue and Lisa agreed that the DEI Resources document should be shared with convenors and members.

REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe shared the December/Year End Treasurer's report. Highlights:

- LifeRing took in more donations in 2023 than 2022
- Press sales are down from 2022
- Grants have increased income exponentially

There was a brief discussion on creating a QR code for quick donations. There are some difficulties in getting such a QR code to work optimally.

LIFERING DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Sue shared Lorraine's report for December. Highlights:

- 50% of private foundations are philanthropic family foundations, similar to the Comeau Foundation.
- The hope that the Comeau Foundation will donate on an ongoing basis.

LIFERING TEAMS UPDATES

LIFERING TEAMS PROJECTS REPORT

Board members are encouraged to view the report. Highlights:

- Margit's Delphi Forum report reflects average number of visitors is 90-150 daily
- Craign's ePals report shows a 50% increase in ePal requests

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING REPORT

Sue shared the Fundraising Report for 2023. Highlights:

- LifeRing's 2023 personal donations show a 4.7% increase from 2022
- 2023 Total donated through DonorBox is \$48,176
- December donations totaled \$17,802

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Sue shared poll results from Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Eve gatherings. Highlights:

- Good turnout
- Positive comments shared
- Negative comment shared

LIFERING PUBLIC FORUM

Laura question #1

On the agenda, there are links that are supposedly confidential, but when screen sharing happens, I can print screen. So why are they not made available on the agenda?

- Answer – It is difficult to hide all confidential information. Our goal is transparency. If there is something you would like to see, it can be provided.

Laura question #2

Could a financial report on book and pamphlet sales, broken down by title, be generated and provided?

- Answer – Robert provided some ballpark figures on general book and merchandise sales
- He also offered to share a more detailed spreadsheet for 2023, showing sales per book
- Robert also emphasized that LifeRing's book sales are not a major profit center
- Laura mentioned that book sales indicate participant interest, not just revenue

Laura question #3

In the interest of getting stakeholders more involved, can the agenda and its content be shared publicly before the meeting starts?

- Answer – the policy is to publish the agenda on the <https://lifering.org/governance/bod/> page prior to each meeting. There was an error prior to today's meeting and the agenda failed to load. A screen refresh may be necessary to open the current agenda link.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC BOD BUSINESS MEETING

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

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

LIFERING PUBLIC FORUM, continued

Laura – Will attend future meetings, aiming to advocate for more resources for in-person convenors.

Robby J. – Introduction

Jakub – Enjoyed the financial reports. Sue reminded all that BOD minutes and financial reports are published on the website.

Kemper – Welcome

Alexis – Welcome

Robby J. – Requested printed pamphlets to publicize LifeRing in the SLE he runs. Robert asked that he email publisher@lifering.org for a brochure request. Sue and Lisa also reminded all that grants are available for convenors starting in-person meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was held.

Item: Discussion of Conflict Resolution Workflow

Respectfully submitted on January 15, 2024 by Monica Foy