

LIFERING SECULAR RECOVERY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES SUNDAY MARCH 10, 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		√

NON-BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Laura M.
- Sarah M.
- Sherri T.
- Robby J.
- Taresa N.
- Mark F.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

FEBRUARY 2024 MINUTES

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

VOTE: Sue confirmed unanimous approval.

FEBRUARY 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Monica made a motion to adopt the February 2024 Financial Report. Bobbi 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. Cooley has provided a third draft of the proposed agreement. Mary Beth hopes that she and Lisa can present the draft to the Board in April.

WEBSITE REDESIGN

Bobbi reports that the redesign team has presented a mockup for a new front page to the developer, Ken. She shared the unpublished page that Ken created based on the mockup. Ken asked for a conceptual first-time viewer to better target the page's content. Ken's developing the next version of the page based on the latest collaboration. Taresa has volunteered to help redesign the meeting page.

2024 LIFERING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sue spoke about the upcoming LifeRing Annual Conference as an opportunity for all stakeholders to meet. Highlights:

- Every meeting sends a delegate so that each meeting has one vote.
- The dates are June 8th & 9th.
- Day 1: Annual Meeting, with guest speakers and workshops.
- Day 2: Annual Congress, including Board elections.
- Volunteers are needed for the planning committee and talent show.
- Voter registration begins today, and we need a registrar.
- Regional representatives may take care of determining voter eligibility.

Mary Beth spoke on the process for changes to bylaws:

- Proposals now submitted in advance.
- Advance submission allows for coordination with other proposals and consistent language.

Mary Beth offered to speak and present a workshop. She's also working with Steve Kind from SMART Recovery, who she suggested may be available to present a workshop.

NEW BUSINESS

FUNDING REQUESTS PROCEDURES

Joe introduced the updated Income and Expense Policy. Highlights:

- There are two parts to the policy:
 1. Income and Expense Policy
 2. Budget and Funding Request Procedure
- Procedure has a decision flowchart.

Mary Beth recommended an edit to the policy's Authorization of Expenses section, proposing that a Board vote be required for expenses over \$501.

Monica made a motion to approve the policy as amended. Sue seconded.

VOTE: Sue confirmed unanimous approval.

LETTER OF SUPPORT / MINNESOTA RECOVERY OPTIONS ACT (HF 346/SF 3459)

- Mary Beth spoke about the proposed Minnesota law, requiring non faith-based alternatives for people mandated to enter recovery programs.
- Mary Beth offered the Humanist Legal Group and other groups backing the legislation a letter of support.
- Sue drafted the letter of support and will have the Board members sign it.
- Mary Beth will provide the letter to Steve Kind, who will deliver it to the appropriate legislative body.

Njon brought up the idea of drafting resolutions in addition to drafting letters of support, on positions that LifeRing holds. Sue endorsed the idea for future support positions.

DEI BOD AWARENESS – AREAS OF INTEREST

Lisa is absent due to a death in the family, but will be back next month to discuss DEI.

REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe shared the Treasurer's report, with January – February numbers, compared to the same period in 2023. Highlights:

- Lower donations and book sales drove revenue lower than 2023 period.
- Upturn in expenses driven by cost of Director of Development and website design.
- LifeRing has a Chase Savings account earning minimal interest.
- Largest expenses:
 - Director of Development – Contract is year-long
 - Contract Services – website
 - IT expenses

LIFERING DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Sue shared Lorraine's report for February. Highlights:

- Lorraine submitted a request to SAMHSA for assistance from SPARK with marketing/promotion.
 - SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
 - SPARK – SAMHSA Program to Advance Recovery Knowledge.
- Exploring approaching county courts or probation officers regarding mandated Community Service.
 - Make LifeRing available as an option for DUI and other offenders.
- Discussion
 - Scope of Development Director efforts
 - Tenure of Development Director

LIFERING BOOK SALES REPORT

Robert presented January and February sales numbers.

- Caveat – Book purchases and sales happen in different months, skewing some statistics.
- Amazon royalties lag – Amazon pays royalties a month after sale.
- Quarterly numbers show a more realistic book sales picture.
- San Francisco library book order faced a shipping delay from Amazon.
- Future of LifeRing book sales
 - When Robert retires, consider selling from Amazon exclusively.
 - LifeRing would lose revenue; Amazon charges 40%.
 - LifeRing would no longer handle any book inventory/shipping/payment processing.
- Sold Out warning on LifeRing book shop site
 - Empowering Your Sober Self and Humanly Possible are flagged as sold out.
 - Buyers can still order from Amazon
 - Recommendation: Add a link to Amazon to book shop site.
- Re-pricing consideration: Lower the price of some books to increase circulation.
- Spike in sales of *Empowering Your Sober Self*
 - Amazon sold 79 copies, including a bulk order of 20.
 - Amazon sales are anonymous; unable to see who ordered them.

LIFERING TEAMS UPDATES

LIFERING TEAMS PROJECTS REPORT

Sue shared the LifeRing Teams Status Report. Highlights:

- Sue updating Professional pamphlet
- Proposal: Recovery Toolbox pamphlet
- Outreach team meeting 3/12 at 4pm Pacific will discuss pamphlet topics
- Looking for volunteers – form link shared
- Meetings and Convenors Support Team doing well.
- Shout-outs to Laura, Mark, Robbie, Sherri, and Sarah.

ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monica made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sue seconded.

VOTE: Sue verbally confirmed unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

LIFERING PUBLIC FORUM

SARAH SHARE

- Interested in Outreach & Marketing & Communications Committee
- In-person meetings needed in Central Illinois
- Invited to speak at Central Illinois forum
- Will join Outreach meeting on 3/12

LAURA QUESTIONS

Question #1 - Meeting donations

- There is a Year-End campaign for meeting donations
- Does this skew donation numbers for Q1?
- Do numbers go up in subsequent quarters?

Answer:

- In-person meeting donations have been erratic.
- Lisa will present a new document that she and Laura created, in April.

Question #2 – Code of Ethics

- COE is a Vendor Requirement for Minnesota Recovery Options Act HF3486.
- Does LifeRing have a Code of Ethics?

Answer:

- LifeRing Code of Ethics is rolled into the Terms of Use.
- Mary Beth will take a closer look at the Bill to parse Code of Ethics and Vendor definitions.

MARK SHARE

- State measures about recovery program choices use “Vendor”.
- OK for LifeRing to be considered a Vendor.
- Mixed Feelings
 - Concerned about LifeRing becoming a “verification mill”.
 - But in favor of getting more people to join LifeRing.

Discussion

- LifeRing empowers each convenor to provide verification or not.
- Convenors are frustrated that attendees who don’t participate expect verification.
- Convenors meeting is March 16th.

Convenor Drive

- Sue mentioned the drive for more convenors and shared recruitment efforts
- Goal: to have a meeting every hour.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC BOD BUSINESS MEETING

Sue adjourned the public board business meeting.
The public board business meeting closed at 10:15 AM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item #1 – Conflict Resolution Protocol | Disturbances Guidelines Draft

Item #2 – WhatsApp and other unchartered groups

Item #3 – BOD Term Limits

Respectfully submitted on March 10, 2024 by Monica Foy