



Board Of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 8, 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		x
Monica Foy	√	
Joe Franklin	√	
Michael Anderson	√	
Mary Beth O'Connor	√	
Njon Sanders		x
Robert Stump	x	
Lisa Swing-Corney	√	

Non-Board Members Present:

- Ewa C.
- Kemper M.
- Taresa N.
- Saad
- Daniel M.
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Approval Of Consent Agenda

August 2024 Minutes

Minutes unavailable at this time. Will be submitted in the near future and the meeting will go forward.

August 2024 Financial Report

Monica made a motion to adopt the August 2024 Financial Report, as presented. Michael seconded.

VOTE: Sue confirmed a unanimous vote to adopt the August 2024 Financial Report.

Ongoing Business

Annual Compliance Documents: Board of Directors Letter of Commitment

Compliance document: All Board members are in compliance except for Bobby due to a conflict of interest and still needs to be presented to Ewa C.

Relations With International Entities

The **Agreement for International Entities** has been submitted to the International Entities (who are expected to review and propose additional changes).

Mary Beth and Lisa have been working on relations with international entities.

Lisa reports that making contact has been difficult. Sweden was quick to respond but not sure if they fully understand the process. Has not heard back from Canada or the UK. Sue has offered to assist with reaching Canada and the UK.

Lisa adds that she needs to make a correction to her statement about Ireland's status at last month's BOD meeting: she had erroneously stated that Michael in Ireland had not gotten back to her when in fact he had responded.

Website Redesign

Bobby is not present but Robert provides the following update:

The test website has been backed up onto LifeRing's current website by our vendor.

The website committee and select individuals will then be able to view it via private URL. Adjustments may be made at that time. Once finished, additional select individuals, (including the Board) will have the opportunity to view it. The final decision

will then be made re: replacing our current website with the new design. A thank you to Taresa, for her contributions to the website redesign process.

New Business

RecoveryMonth

Michael graciously stood in for Sue in representing LifeRing at the Fourth Annual Recovery Day in San Francisco's Bodecker Park in the heart of the Tenderloin, which is ground zero of San Francisco's fentanyl crisis.

Joe will represent LifeRing at a Rally for Recovery in downtown Denver which is organized by Advocates for Recovery.

Mary Beth will be tabling for LifeRing at the San Mateo County Recovery event this week. Towards the end of the month she will be speaking/tabling at the Santa Clara County event.

Multiple Pathways of Recovery Conference (MPRC)

Historically, MPRC is the one conference LifeRing makes an effort to participate in whenever it is being held. The annual Multiple Pathways of Recovery Conference (MPRC), which is sponsored by CCAR (Connecticut Community Addiction Resources) was held in New Haven, CT in August 2024. Mary Beth represented LifeRing this year. The event was sold out. Mary Beth had a dedicated table for LifeRing, and also did a couple of workshops on the last day of the conference, adding that both workshops were very well attended despite being scheduled on the last day (when turnout is known to diminish).

After MPRC, Mary Beth drove to Maine where she spoke at the Recovery Center in Portland, ME.

Misc.

LifeRing Overview for Professionals pamphlet has been updated. Congratulations to Njon for the update he made to the LifeRing Overview for Professionals webpage and thank you to all who contributed to these efforts..

YouTube: Mary Beth has created a two minute presentation about LifeRing that is now on YouTube. She originally developed it to be a ninety-second presentation for the Santa Clara Multiple Pathways Conference, giving an overview of LifeRing with a very brief mention of meeting format. Mary Beth then had a request from MPRC to do another, longer, two-minute video presentation that would provide more detailed information about LifeRing's meeting format.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Monica has created a new format for the Treasurer's Report in order to simplify the presentation of finances: Assets as of August 31, 2024 \$143,877, and has been increasing over the past five years.

Most income sources come from donations followed by sales, meetings, and grants. Sales represents the book sales, either direct sales or through Amazon. Income from meetings has been affected by the decline in the number of in-person meetings post-Covid; usually meeting income went to the convener's expenses for the room etc. Some discussion follows regarding how to generate more donation income from online meetings.

LifeRing Book Sales Report

Book sales remain robust, some of which may be related to the "Read to Recovery" program created by the San Francisco Public Library in tandem with other local recovery programs who have agreed to give away books to people who are in recovery or curious about recovery.

LifeRing Development Report

Sue is standing in for Lorraine, who is not present. Sue describes some of the ongoing work being done by Lorraine in her new role as Development Director.

Highlights include research into secular philanthropic organizations that provide grant funding, which is ongoing; also, Lorraine had an online call with Steven Samra, SPARK Technical Assistance arm of SAMHSA to identify potential grant funding pathways and had other useful suggestions, e.g. establishing a "warm line", among other efforts. Lorraine will update the BOD at next month's meeting.

LifeRing Teams Updates

Social Media

Bobbi is absent: no new updates.

Donations: Sue reports that we are currently 18.9% year over year and have reached the \$25,000 mark. In addition we have added three new recurring donors, to whom we are very grateful.

Adjournment of Board of Directors Meeting

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

VOTE: Sue verbally confirmed unanimous approval to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 09:49 AM Pacific Time.

Public Forum

Taresa would like to know more about the finances and whether there were any particular projects that are being funded. Monica replies that there is no specific project per se that is being saved for, and that most of the expenses most likely could be categorized under outreach. Robert adds that there are a number of outreach efforts and there is a defined amount that can be spent annually; if there is a need beyond that amount then the Board is approached for approval. Much of the outreach comes in the form of books that are given out free of charge or, in some cases, discounted. Last year a budget was defined along with some goals, one of which was finance and the other redesigning the website. Lisa points out that LifeRing does have a budgeting process for certain projects that have to go through a process of approval where there is a budgeting form that needs to be submitted. For instance, the Board allocated \$1500 for the in-person meeting start up and promotional grants, a program that was started a couple of years ago and is available to anyone in the USA who is starting a meeting, and there are restrictions and guidelines. Executive Director Sue Betts posted in chat a list of current and pending “big ticket” projects funded by personal donations and family foundations.

Kemper has a question about why donations are not being collected at in-person meetings, or “passing the hat”: specifically, he has noticed at meetings being held at Kaiser there never is a collection and is wondering if that’s a Kaiser policy. Lisa states that different locales where meetings are being held may have different rules about “passing the hat”. Sue mentions that at some meetings people are in such dire straits that asking for donations does not feel appropriate. All in all, it is up to the convenors whether they want to “pass the hat” or not; and that there are many ways to contribute, not just money, but by volunteering. Robert adds that it is perfectly acceptable to collect money in the proper set of circumstances. Sue thanks Kemper for bringing up the question and the topic of possibly streamlining a way for people to donate directly at their zoom meetings, e.g. via QR code; this will be carried over to the Executive Session.

Jody expressed appreciation for having the chance to sit in on a Board meeting, and also expressed some concern over a certain individual participant who has been disruptive at some of the online meetings.

Saad also expresses his misgivings about meeting participant(s) who have needs that are at a higher level than what can be provided in a support group environment.

Sue, states that she is aware of the situation and that the Board has a detailed process for managing such concerns; other Board members provide additional information to the members of the public, and the concern will be carried over to the Executive Session.

Executive Session

Discussion regarding in-person meeting charters and disciplinary action review