



Board Of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 9, 2025

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	√	
Michael Anderson	√	
Mary Beth O'Connor	√	
Njon Sanders	√	
Robert Stump	√	
Lisa Swing-Corney	√	

Non-Board Members Present:

- Ewa C.
- Steve G.
- Lorraine H.
- Taresa N.
- Brian T.
- Mandy D.
- Anne D.
- Chris S.
- Saad P.
- Nicole M.
- Mike M.

Approval of Consent Agenda

January 2025 Minutes

It was noted that the January 2025 Minutes erroneously marked Mary Beth O'Connor as being absent whereas she was present. Noted, with edit made to correct.

Monica made a motion to adopt the January 2025 Minutes as presented, with correction.

Lisa seconded.

VOTE: Sue confirmed a unanimous vote to adopt the January Minutes as presented, with correction.

January 2025 Financial Report

Monica made a motion to adopt the January 2025 Financial Report as presented.

Joe seconded.

VOTE: Sue confirmed a unanimous vote to adopt the January 2025 Financial Report as presented.

Ongoing Business

Charter Language & Bylaw Update

Charter language and Article One of the Bylaws

The Charter language as well as that of the Bylaws has been reviewed in an effort to use more inclusive and less stigmatizing language. In addition, some of the current language is dated and would benefit from an update in order to make the language more current and positive.

Any changes will need to be voted on at the LifeRing Congress in June 2025.

The exact language will need to be precise and clear. Once the language changes are drafted and finalized, Mary Beth will consult with Cooley re: legal guidance.

In addition, any language changes in the charter or bylaws will require the same language changes in the articles of incorporation in order to be consistent.

Strategic Plan

Lisa: LifeRing's Strategic Plan was developed for 2023-2024. The Board will need to decide if the strategic plan reflects LifeRing's current goals and objectives or whether any substantive changes need to be made. If no changes, the strategic plan could go forward as is for 2025.

Discussion of diversity, inclusion and engagement language within the Strategic Plan and whether any of the language should be updated or adjusted.

Board members will review the Strategic Plan; final discussion and decision-making will be tabled until March 2025.

Online Convenor Bios

LifeRing's new website has a feature which, if enabled, includes bios of online convenors. The pros and cons of using such a feature were discussed at length; Sue requested a vote on the following question:

Does LifeRing want to adopt the practice of including online meeting convener bios along with online meeting information on the new website?

VOTE: One in favor and six opposed, with Robert and Monica abstaining.

Board has determined that Convenor Bios will not be included on the new website at this time. This can be revisited if for some reason the decision is not well received by the LifeRing community.

Form 990 v. Form 990 EZ Tax Filing

Monica reports that LifeRing has been filing taxes as required by the IRS and the State of California, using a filing known as the 990 EZ. The 990 EZ is used by small non-profit organizations under the revenue threshold of \$200,000. Larger nonprofits file a longer form called the 990.

Monica and Lorraine lead discussion weighing the pros and cons of using either form; although LifeRing revenue falls well below the revenue threshold, it may be advantageous to file the long form in anticipation of future grant applications. Form 990 discloses more about the organization to both the IRS and the public, providing more transparency. Using the long form could potentially make it easier to obtain grants from a wider range of the foundations and organizations that provide grants. General agreement that LifeRing is not ready to file the long form for 2024 at this late date. Meanwhile, small steps can be taken in order to prepare to file the long form, perhaps in 2025 or 2026.

Sue tabled the matter for now pending further exploration and discussion.

990 PBC List | Good Governance Policies

Tabled for now pending further discussion.

DAF Funding

Monica reports that Donor Advised Funding (DAF) is one of the newer developments in giving and provides an overview of what a DAF is and how it functions. A DAF is an account held by 501C organizations with a financial institution such as Fidelity or Charles Schwab which provides both a tax benefit and tax free growth.

Lorraine has been researching how LifeRing can begin to utilize DAF. Although LifeRing's donor platform box does not currently support DAF, it will be able to do so later this year by using a widget called DAF Direct.

The Board is in agreement that LifeRing should move forward with plans to use DAF and to set up DAF Direct.

An effort will also be made to increase awareness of DAF among LifeRing's donor base.

Website Redesign

Bobbi: Progress continues on the new website, which should be ready to launch in the near future. Taresa reviews the progress she is making on multiple projects.

New Business

No new updates.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Monica presents the income and expenditure information in its new visual graph form. The year 2025 is starting out well and LifeRing's net income is higher than it was at this time last year. Book sales have been average.

LifeRing Book Sales Report

No new updates.

LifeRing Development Report

Lorraine reports that FMC continues to meet on a bi-weekly basis.

Lorraine and Joe were supposed to meet with Katie Georgitis of the Comeau Foundation in order to share LifeRing's progress but Katie rescheduled the meeting.

Lorraine has made some progress on the grant proposal template and will be ready to share it with the Board next month. Joe is working on the budgetary section of the template. Lorraine has also attended a number of webinars about grant writing and nonprofit funding using AI.

Sue and Lorraine had a call scheduled with Steven Samra and Christina at SAMHSA. (Steven is LifeRing's technical assistance representative from SPARK at SAMHSA) However, they were told that, based on the current political environment, only one person from LifeRing could be on the call. Lorraine attended the call and wanted to record it but was not permitted to do so. SAMHSA continues to be committed to helping with LifeRing's Zoom analytics through SPARK, which displays the efficacy and retention of people attending LifeRing meetings.

LifeRing Teams Updates

Social Media

No new updates.

Tech Team: Privacy Policy

Taresa reports that one of LifeRing's members, Anne, is a cyber security privacy expert and has graciously volunteered to review LifeRing's privacy policy in order to propose any necessary edits and updates.

Annual Awareness Calendar

Sue highlights LifeRing's Annual Awareness Calendar and encourages all members to consider getting involved by getting involved with LifeRing in ways that will add some new voices and new perspectives.

Adjournment of Board of Directors Meeting

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

VOTE: Sue verbally confirmed unanimous approval to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM Pacific Time.

Public Forum

Nicole brings attention to the grant opportunities through her place of employment and will share the link with the Board for future consideration.

Steve G. discusses the changes going on at SAMHSA and how that may affect funding opportunities for LifeRing.

Jody, Taresa, Anne, Saad, and Mike express support for having convenor bios on the new website. Chris S. speaks in opposition to convenor bios and also asks for clarification re: possible changes to articles of incorporation.