



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2021

5:00-7:00 pm; via Zoom call

Board Members Present: Marina Bressler, Paul Lenzmeier, Leanne Matchen, Stephen Nash, Mark Nolen, Don Phillips, Stephen Spears, Jennifer Stone, Chris Warner, Sue Woodard, Anna VonRueden

Board Members Absent: Sean Haag

Staff and Guests Present: Julie Fliflet, Cheryl Jensen, Mark McNamer, Julie Orlando, Kyla Rathjen

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by Stephen Spears, Chair of the Board.

Approve Agenda

Motion made by Jen Stone, seconded by Chris Warner, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion made by Marina Bressler, seconded by Stephen Nash, and passed unanimously to approve the April 26, 2021 minutes.

Finance & Administration Report

Julie Fliflet and Mark Nolen reviewed the 2020 Audit Report. This year's audit was for the 15-month period of October 1, 2019-December 31, 2021 due to the change back to a calendar fiscal year end. The Audit Firm was Abdo, Eick, & Meyers. HOPE 4 Youth received a clean, unmodified audit opinion with no audit adjustments, management points, or disagreements with management and no longer had the material weakness audit finding of prior year's related to audit adjustments made by the auditors.

Motion made by Mark Nolen, seconded by Marina Bressler, and passed unanimously to accept and approve the 2021 Audit Report as presented.

The April financials were also reviewed with the board, showing a positive overall variance from budget of over \$88,000 through April, and days cash on hand of 327 days.

Program Report

Mark McNamer reviewed the April 2021 Program Snapshot. Hope Place is at capacity with one new resident, who accessed HOPE 4 Youth through the emergency after-hours phone before using case management services. There are 12 active youth in Hope Homes. While the Drop-In Center is busy and staff are focusing on more intensive case management services, the team looks to many interns and volunteer mentors to help youth with basic needs. Mark also shared

that they applied to receive a full time Housing Navigator from AmeriCorps. Lastly, a graduation ceremony for youth graduating from high school will take place at Drop-In Center on June 17th.

Advancement & Development Report

Julie Orlando reviewed the Advancement Scorecard for April 2021. She also gave an update on the GiveMN Spring Forward campaign, which raised just under \$6k between May 1-11, including one recurring donor. She shared that there has been a jump in volunteer hours and active volunteers. A full recap of A Night 4 HOPE will be provided at the next board meeting, however, the current grand total raised is just under \$55k. At least 111 people officially checked in to the event, in addition to 12 volunteers and staff.

Strategic Planning Committee Update

Jennifer Stone and Cheryl Jensen shared that the committee is waiting for an updated draft of the strategic plan from HOPE 4 Youth Leadership. Otherwise, there are no updates.

Nominations Committee Update

Chris Warner, Chair of the Nominations Committee, shared that the most recent potential board candidate is choosing to step back from nomination due to personal circumstances. Another new board candidate has been introduced to the Nominations Committee. He expects to have a formal recommendation for the board at the June meeting and requests that board members let the committee know if you have additional candidates who may be a good fit.

Marina Bressler's Resignation

Stephen Spears made the announcement of Marina Bressler's departure from the board. This board meeting is Marina's last at HOPE 4 Youth. Marina will continue to stay involved at HOPE 4 Youth in other capacities.

Executive Team – Secretary Position

Marina Bressler's resignation leaves the position of Secretary open on the Executive Committee. After recommendation by Executive Committee members, Anna VonRueden will be filling the position.

Motion to accept Marina Bressler's resignation was moved by Chris Warner, seconded by [REDACTED], and approved unanimously.

Motion to accept Anna VonRueden's nomination was moved by Jen Stone, seconded by Chris Warner, and approved unanimously.

Executive Director Search Committee

Stephen Spears indicated that the board is not going to engage with an outside search firm to conduct the search for an Executive Director. Rather, they will conduct a search using HOPE 4 Youth's own resources, including Cheryl Jensen as part of her responsibilities as Interim Executive Director. Stephen recommended that the Executive Committee, with the guidance of Jen Stone as a board representative with HR experience, will work through an internal search.

Board Portal Tutorial

Kyla Rathjen, Administrative Assistant, walked the board through a tutorial of the Board Portal. All Board Packets, Meeting Minutes, onboarding documents, and more are available on the portal. Kyla requested that you contact her if you need access to your login information.

Adjourn to Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Stephen Nash, seconded by Chris Warner, and passed unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kyla Rathjen
Administrative Assistant