

Youth On Their Own BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2020

5:30pm

YOTO Multi-Purpose Room
1642 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712

Board Members in Attendance: Elaine Babcock, Maria Cuadra, Sean Denlinger, Linda Montes-Cota, Sean Murray, Jay Peskoe, Deb Salaiz, Kristina Scott (via phone), Michelle Singer, Julie Stevenson

Board Members Absent: Tony Cazzato, Katina Koller, Eva Murzaite, Bill Stoffers

Staff Members in Attendance: Daniela Figueroa, Bethany Neumann, Deb Ramsey, Matthew Palmer, Elizabeth Slater

Guests: Jesus Valenzuela/student ambassador

1. Call to Order

Sean Murray

Sean called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

2. Mission Moment

Jesus Valenzuela

Jesus, YOTO ambassador, shared his story.

3. Review and Approval of January 25, 2020 Minutes

Sean Murray

Motion to approve 1.25.2020 Minutes: Elaine Babcock

Second: Sean Murray

Discussion: Elizabeth Slater explained that the January minutes were split into two meetings. The Special Meeting minutes will be posted on our website; the Strategic Planning meeting minutes will not.

Vote: Approved unanimously

4. CEO Report

Elizabeth Slater/
Bethany Neumann

Elizabeth shared the following:

- Building update/offer on Circus Furniture building
- Student portal
- A plan to address potential school closings due to COVID-19 is being prepared at YOTO
- Bethany shared an overview of the Spring Lunch

5. Finance Report & Financial Statements

Matthew Palmer

Matthew Palmer shared that YOTO is approximately \$560,000 over our budgeted income and approximately \$143,000 under our budgeted expenses. This is due to increased donations and delayed staff hiring, respectively.

Motion to approve Financial Statements: Sean Murray

Second: Sean Denlinger

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved unanimously

6. Form 990

Matthew Palmer

Motion to approve Form 990: Elaine Babcock

Second: Sean Denlinger

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved unanimously

7. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Sean Murray

A summary of the disclosures was shared. Elizabeth explained that it is okay to have a conflict, but the conflict needs to be noted.

8. Mission/Vision Statement

Elizabeth Slater

The board reviewed and discussed YOTO's mission statement and potential revisions. Elizabeth shared the evolution of YOTO's mission statement over the years and the variations being used in collateral currently. The senior leadership proposed the following change to the mission statement for board consideration:

Current version approved by board:

Youth On Their Own supports the high school graduation and continued success of homeless youth by providing financial assistance, basic human needs, and guidance.

Proposed new for board consideration:

Youth On Their Own supports the high school graduation and continued success of youth experiencing homelessness by providing financial assistance, basic human needs, and guidance.

Board members discussed the importance of using language that doesn't label students and adopting language that encompasses unaccompanied youth. Board members will consider potential changes and bring any further suggestions or concerns to the next board meeting. Any changes to the mission statement will be approved with the FY21-FY23 Strategic Plan.

9. Draft of Program Tiers

Daniela Figueroa

Daniela presented the draft model for tiered services and fielded questions. She mentioned that liaisons have been unclear of our admission criteria. Moving forward, YOTO staff will make the first decision on whether or not a student qualifies for our program. Sean Murray requested that staff calculate the budget impact of providing a higher stipend to Tier 1 students and of continuing to provide a small stipend to Tier 3 students for the board's review as part of the organization's budgeting process.

10. Strategic Plan Timeline


Board members will receive additional content from staff in March and April and will be asked to review and provide feedback via email. The aim is to have the Strategic Plan ready to be approved at the April 23 board meeting.

11. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm

Sean Murray

Submitted by Deb Ramsey on behalf of Eva Murzaite, Secretary.

I certify these minutes were approved by the Board of Directors at the May 28, 2020 board meeting.



A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Eva Murzaite, Secretary

5/29/20

Date