

# **Youth On Their Own BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 24, 2022  
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Enrique Aldana, Elaine Babcock, Tony Cazzato, Sean Denlinger, Eric Dupree, Viviana Fimbres, Lorenzo Gonzalez, Amanda Kippert, Amanda McCraw, Linda Montes Cota, Jay Peskoe, Paola Ponce, Cori Rodriguez, Deb Salaiz, Kristina Scott, Michelle Singer, Julie Stevenson

**Board Members Absent:** Tom Hoyt, Sean Murray

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Todd Brown, Daniela Figueroa, Bethany Neumann, Deb Ramsey, Elizabeth Slater

**Staff Members Absent:** Daniel Armenta

## **1. Call to Order**

**Sean Denlinger**

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

## **2. Mission Moment**

**Ana Lucero**

Ana Lucero, YOTO's Senior Program Manager for Data & Systems, shared that her team conducted several focus groups with LGBTQ+ students. Ana shared an audio clip from an interview with a student. Ana then explained that the purpose of the focus groups is to hear from sub-groups of YOTO youth about how the program is benefitting them and how we can serve them better. The next series of focus groups will be our parenting youth.

## **3. Review and Approval of January 22, 2022 Minutes**

**Linda Montes-Cota**

Motion to approve 1/22/2022 Minutes: Jay Peskoe

Second: Elaine Babcock

Discussion: None

**Vote: Approved unanimously**

## **4. Approve Finance Report**

**Deb Salaiz/Todd Brown**

Deb shared the finance summary provided to the board with no concerns. Deb shared that our reserves are healthy with 2.69 months in cash and 15 months in our total operating reserve.

The Investment Committee met with our advisors at UBS to review last quarter's performance and discuss recent market volatility. They are considering some possible changes to our investment strategy. More information will be shared with the Board if the Investment Committee decides to recommend any changes.

The Employee Retention Credits (ERC) have been requested. We hope to receive \$393,000 in unbudgeted unrestricted income before the end of 2022.

The annual budget process has been started.

Motion to approve Finance Report: Jay Peskoe  
Second: Tony Cazzato  
Discussion: None  
**Vote: Approved unanimously**

#### **5. Review and Approval of 990 for FY21**

**Deb Salaiz/Todd Brown**

Motion to approve 990 for FY21: Tony Cazzato  
Second: Lorenzo Gonzalez  
Discussion: None  
**Vote: Approved unanimously**

#### **6. Reviewed Board Conflicts of Interest**

**Elizabeth Slater**

The board reviewed all potential conflicts of interest disclosed by board members through the annual disclosure process. There were no concerns.

#### **7. CEO Report**

**Elizabeth Slater**

Elizabeth thanked board members for participating in Matthew's retirement party, check presentations, Angel Charity pitch team, and photo shoots for YOTO materials. She encouraged all members to attend events when they are able!

Elizabeth reminded the board that last year YOTO formalized 13 strategic partnerships with local nonprofit organizations and distributed \$155,000 in funding for mission-aligned direct service work. Because these organizations provided services which YOTO does not, they were able to enhance the support provided to YOTO youth. For FY22, an amount of up to \$200,000 has been budgeted for these strategic partnerships. The selection of partners is more strategic this year and better aligned with the most pressing needs of YOTO students. Our Family Services is our primary partner (up to \$96,000), providing emergency housing and housing case management for YOTO youth. Elizabeth mentioned that she recently met with the new CEO at Our Family Services who wants to build a strong collaboration with YOTO. There are five small grant partners which have already been selected and will be awarded up to \$10,000 for the provision of basic needs. YOTO is looking for staff and board suggestions to whom the remaining funds can be awarded in the next few months, after confirming YOTO is financially solid.

The final presentation to Angel Charity will be on Wednesday, March 2. The recipient of the grant money will be announced early that afternoon. Board members were asked to mark their calendars for 2:00pm on March 2 to meet at the 2525 N. Country Club building – hopefully to celebrate YOTO receiving the \$750,000!

Elizabeth asked each board member to consider a board officer position for FY23. She encouraged everyone to talk to those who have previously held the positions. Julie Stevenson will move into the President position. Candidates will be needed to fill the President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer spots.

#### **8. Discussion about Donor Thank You Calls**

**Elizabeth Slater**

Elizabeth led a discussion aimed at determining if the board wants to keep making these calls. Our proposal is to have each member make up to 15 calls a month and send notes back from each conversation. The general consensus seemed to be that the board felt making the calls is important and worthwhile. They would like to continue making the calls but have flexibility on the number of calls they receive each month, if any. Elizabeth explained that staff would be meeting to set up the structure for these calls. She invited anyone with ideas to please get in touch with her or Bethany.

**9. Program Deep Dive**

**Daniela Figueroa**

Daniela talked about the demographics of YOTO enrollment and shared that 1,105 students have been served to date, which is 68% more than were served in FY21. Daniela also discussed applications, stipends, Mini Mall usage, the alumni program. She shared Action Steps and Successes in each of these areas. The board participated in a Q&A with Daniela about our current program activities and potential changes for FY23.


**10. Regular meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.**

**Sean Denlinger**

*Submitted by Deb Ramsey on behalf of Linda Montes-Cota, Secretary.*

**I certify these minutes were approved by the Board of Directors at the April 28, 2022 board meeting.**

  
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Linda Montes-Cota, Secretary

  
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Date