

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

**Thursday, November 16, 2023  
5:30 PM – 7 PM**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Elaine Babcock, Ragan Edwards, Viviana Fimbres, Amanda Kippert, Linda Montes-Cota, Mark Papoccia, Paola Ponce, Cori Rodriguez, Tony Spear, Antonio Rubio, Enrique Aldana

**Board Members Absent:** Sean Murray, Tom Hoyt, Georgina Smith, Allen Kinnison, Katie Maxwell, Eric Dupree

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Brooke Blizzard, Todd Brown, Bethany Neumann, Elizabeth Slater, Heather Vene, Sharon Wolfin Eden, Rashel Olalde

## **1. Call to Order**

**Elaine Babcock**

Elaine called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

## **2. Mission Moment**

**Estefanny**

Stef graduated high school in 2020 and is a member of the Youth Advisory Board. She was a speaker at last year's spring lunch. A lot has happened for Stef in the past year, including facing eviction and graduating from massage therapy school. During her time in massage therapy school, Stef struggled to maintain a job and support herself on her own. YOTO's support helped Stef during this time by connecting her to housing through Our Family Services, providing access to basic needs at the Mini Mall, granting her funds to purchase a massage table, and enabling Stef to seek support through counseling.

Being a part of the YAB has empowered Stef to stay connected with YOTO by sharing her story and meeting donors and other community members. Stef is excited about YOTO's new building, especially the new laundry facilities. She is grateful to YOTO for their support throughout difficult times and for helping her find a sense of community.

## **3. FY23 Audited Financial Statements**

**Paola Ponce**

Allison Booker presented the results of YOTO's FY23 financial audit.

LKR met with various YOTO staff members throughout the audit to discuss internal processes. They reviewed the draft with the Finance Committee last Thursday and the Finance Committee recommended the board's approval. Financials were steady compared to the prior year, with the exception of the line of credit related to the new building. The audit went well, with were no concerning findings.

Motion to approve the FY23 Audited Financial Statements: Elaine Babcock

Second: Ragan Edwards

Discussion: None

**Vote: Approved unanimously**

## **4. Review and Approval of August 24, 2023 Minutes**

**Linda Montes-Cota**

Motion to 8/24/2023 Minutes: Julie Stevenson

Second: Cori Rodriguez

Discussion: None

**Vote: Approved unanimously**

## **5. October Finance Report**

**Paola Ponce**

Paola Ponce shared the finance report for October 2023. The October financial statements were not ready in time for the Finance Committee and board to review prior to the November 16 board meeting due to the earlier-than-usual meeting date and some remaining adjusting entries that were completed on 11/15. For this reason, we will postpone the approval of the financials until the next board meeting to ensure the board has enough time to review. The summary provided by staff but has not been verified by the Finance Committee.

## **6. CFSA Resolution to Reinvest Interest**

**Paola Ponce**

Motion to approve CFSA Resolution to Reinvest Interest: Elaine Babcock

Second: Ragan Edwards

Discussion: Tony asked for more information about this resolution. Elizabeth provided background and recommended the funds to be reinvested as we do not currently need to use them and the funds better serve the organization by growing in the endowment.

**Vote: Approved unanimously**

## **7. JCF Distribution Request**

**Paola Ponce**

Motion to approve JFC Distribution Request: Tony Spear

Second: Viviana Fimbres

Discussion: Elizabeth let the Board know that the donor who established this fund prefers that we take the distribution and use for program costs.

**Vote: Approved unanimously**

## **8. Gov Committee Recs for New Board Members**

**Elaine Babcock**

Motion to approve New Board Members for January 2024: Julie Stevenson

Second: Ragan Edwards

Discussion: The Governance Committee reviewed 13 well-qualified applications. The Committee decided to stop accepting board applications for the time being. The Committee is recommending two candidates: Tasha Gamez and Anahi Ortiz, M.D. Tasha Gamez is a former YOTO youth who works as a trainer and community liaison for DES. Anahi Ortiz is a retired pediatrician who specialized in working in youth mental health. Antonio, Ragan, and Tony expressed their excitement in these new candidates and the expertise they'll bring to the board.

**Vote: Approved unanimously**

## **9. CEO Report**

**Elizabeth Slater**

Elizabeth began her report by thanking Enrique and Viviana for their board service that concludes in December. She then thanked everyone who was able to attend the Ribbon Cutting and invited the board members to also attend an Open House.

Elizabeth provided an update on the capital campaign currently running to raise money for the building. The Development team has raised \$185,100 of our \$220,000 through the tile wall. There are still many

lower level tiles available. YOTO has also received grant funding that will go towards the capital campaign. That being said, YOTO recently received a \$200,000 pledge from a donor.

The organization aims to pay off the line of credit with donated, restricted funds, and save the funds from the sale of the two old properties as unrestricted funds. This capital campaign shouldn't impact the Year End Giving campaign.

YOTO's attorney is drafting a sale contract for 1642 N Alvernon Way. This offer is \$20,000 more than the board approved minimum and is an all cash offer. It may close before end of 2023, otherwise early 2024.

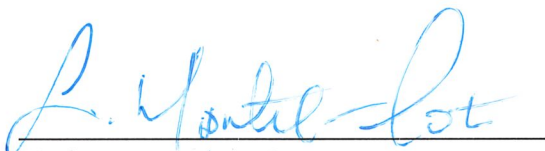
Elizabeth encouraged the board to attend the Gratitude Lunch on November 20 at 12 pm.

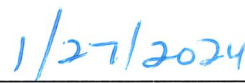
**10. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.**

**Elaine Babcock**

*Submitted by Brooke Blizzard on behalf of Linda Montes-Cota, Secretary.*

**I certify these minutes were approved by the Board of Directors at the January 27, 2024 board meeting.**

  
Linda Montes-Cota, Secretary

  
Date