



Minutes of the Meeting
Board of Directors of Poetry Promise, Inc.
August 1, 2020

Those present included Board Members Chris Giunchigliani, Rodney Lee, Joshua Abbey, Rosa Mendoza, and Bruce Isaacson. The meeting was held via Zoom, in keeping with restrictions necessary for Covid-19 safety. A quorum was noted, and, having been duly noticed by email from the Board Chair, the meeting was called to order by Bruce Isaacson in his capacity as Board Chair of Poetry Promise, Inc. at approximately 12:05 p.m.

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated in advance. Josh moved and Rodney seconded to approve the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

The board noted with sadness the resignation of Vogue Robinson as Executive Director, for personal reasons. All agreed Vogue has been outstanding and commended her. The Board further agreed to appoint her to the position of Coordinator, Poets in the Schools. Bruce Isaacson indicated his commitment to the organization and was appointed Interim Executive Director. These matters were discussed and approved via email in advance of the meeting, but Chris moved to affirm the actions. Josh seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Bruce Isaacson (Treasurer) provided copies in advance and discussed the Treasurer's Report. Bruce noted that we are generating less revenue, but expenses have adjusted. There was discussion. Bruce noted that we received Cares grants and EIDL money, which are not restricted to programming. However, it appear that we lost NV Energy. Josh moved and Chris seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion carried unanimously.

Various programs were discussed. We fell behind last fiscal year on the John Oliver Simon Poetry Promise Award event. The Alzheimer's Poetry Project has stopped in part due to restrictions in entering seniors' facilities. Bruce expressed the opinion that we made a turn successfully to virtual Zoom-based events and are planning a program to bring Joy Harjo, Poet Laureate of the U.S., for a virtual event. Considerable effort has gone into working with co-promoters and sponsors. Ideas for further sponsorships were discussed, and various contacts by Board members were proposed. We also have a new affiliation with the Free Verb Slam via Ashley Vargas. They operate virtually on Instagram. Poets in the Schools has a sustainable model as led by Vogue, and its status was discussed. Chris suggested the idea of securing a student intern and some discussion was held on how we might do that.

The Board discussed its next meeting, and it was tentatively set for September 12 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom. This precedes the planned Joy Harjo event. Bruce will notice the meeting and send a link.

Chris moved and Josh seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried without objection and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:55 p.m.

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The above minutes are approved and submitted by the Secretary, Board Chair, and Board of Directors.

Board of Directors of Poetry Promise, Inc.

Rosa Mendoza, Board Member & Secretary

Bruce Isaacson, Chair & Treasurer

Joshua Abbey, Board Member

Chris Giunchigliani, Board Member

Rodney J. Lee, Board Member