



Minutes of the Meeting
Board of Directors of Poetry Promise, Inc.
June 19, 2021

Those present included Board Members Chris Giunchigliani, Joshua Abbey, Rosa Mendoza, and Bruce Isaacson. Rodney Lee was not able to attend., 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 Bruce seconded to approve the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

In his capacity as Acting Executive Director, Bruce reviewed the company's activities program-by-program over the fiscal year. The summary of this review had been provided in advance in Bruce's written report to the Board. In general, it was a successful year despite the pandemic restrictions. Fund raising went well and we were able to make the turn in programs using Zoom. We also have a new Slam operating, run by Ashley Vargas. Vogue was successful re-orienting our Poets in the Schools program to daycare operations, and has raised \$750 since the Financial Report was issued. The JOS/ PPI Scholarship Award is active and we retained Jennifer Battisti to administer the program this year. Rosa offered to help and made a generous personal donation. A report was also provided on the financial operations so far this fiscal year. It was noted that we have paid over \$26,000 to poets so far this year. Our grant programs have been successful, though Bruce noted the current Nevada Humanities grant requires repurpose approval. We have an improved bank balance and the ability to consider new thrusts or ventures. Josh moved and Rosa seconded to accept the financial report.

Considerable discussion was held on how to move the organization to the next level. There was discussion of the executive structure. Bruce indicated he enjoys the various activities he organizes, including the Saturday reading and his role as Treasurer. While he is sometimes overwhelmed, he hopes to continue. Josh suggested we would benefit from professional executive assistance. Chris suggested that a paid fundraiser could provide important continuity and skills. Bruce reviewed a copy of the latest Grant Report form and agreed that we might benefit from more continuous and professionalized fund raising. Chris suggested that a functional job description would be a good place to begin identifying needs and, possibly, recruiting. Josh offered to draft a job description.

Other matters were discussed, including the connection with the County and the new Poet Laureate. An effort to connect with other local governments was discussed, including the cities of Henderson, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas. The possibility of a new connection with County Parks and Rec at the Walnut Rec Center was initiated by Rodney with Vogue's assistance. Chris reminded us to connect with Commissioner McCurdy. Josh offered a suggestion we connect anew with the new executives at the CC-LV Library District. Josh and Vogue have contacts that might be useful.

The Board discussed its next meeting, and it was tentatively set for August 14 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom. Bruce will notice the meeting and send a link.

Josh moved and Chris seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried without objection and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

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