



Minutes of the Meeting
Board of Directors of Poetry Promise, Inc.
January 16, 2022

Those present included Board Members Rosa Mendoza, Rodney Lee, and Bruce Isaacson. Chris Giunchigliani was detained unexpectedly by family business. 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, the meeting was called to order by Bruce Isaacson in his capacity as Board Chair of Poetry Promise, Inc. at approximately 12:02 p.m.

A discussion was held about Board composition and expectations. Bruce nominated Jennifer Battisti to join the Board as its fifth member. Rodney moved and Rosa seconded that Jennifer Battisti be elected to the Board. The motion carried unanimously. Jennifer Battisti participated actively as a Board member in the remainder of the meeting.

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

Bruce reviewed his Board report, which was circulated in advance the week before the meeting. We have been awarded grants from Nevada Humanities and Nevada Arts Council. Most of these funds are in, though one grant is still pending receipt. Discussion was held about the programs they support, including the Poetry Slam and Literary Festival led by Ashley Vargas, Poets in the Schools led by Vogue Robinson, the JOS-PP Award led by Jennifer with assistance from Vogue, and the Saturday Workshops and Reading Series led by Bruce. Outside match support for federal grants will be needed and sought. We also discussed the parameters of a new, substantial recovery grant awarded by the Clark County Outside Agency Process. The funds are oriented toward a major expansion of the Poets in the Schools program. Ashley will assist Vogue in the expansion. The forthcoming money can be used in schools, community centers, libraries and other programs oriented toward young learners in lesser-advantaged census tracts as defined by the County. The grant will also have specific reporting requirements for evaluations by participants and partners.

Discussion was held about the Clark County Poet Laureate program. There are various changes in the program at this time. Bruce will provide some input to the County. Poetry Promise indicated its desire to support the Poet Laureate and the program in whatever manner possible.

Jennifer brought up the possible reinvigoration of the Alzheimer's Poetry Project. Bruce indicated that, as long as it included participation by qualified schools, instruction and training might be funded by the OAG expansion of Poets in the Schools. Jennifer said she would follow up with Vogue and Ashley. She also intends to provide a projected timeline for the JOS-PP Award this year. Rosa indicated she was working with contacts via the Nevada Federation of Democratic Women who might have some interest in our programs.

The Board agreed to schedule its next meeting as a Zoom on a date to be determined after the fiscal year ends.

Rodney moved and Rosa seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried without objection and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:43 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

Chris Giunchigliani, Board Member

Rodney J. Lee, Board Member

Jennifer Battisti, Board Member