



Minutes of the Meeting
Board of Directors of Poetry Promise, Inc.
September 2, 2023

Those present included Board Members Rosa Mendoza, Rodney Lee, Isabelle Bellinghausen, and Bruce Isaacson. The meeting was held via Zoom. 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 12:00 p.m.

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

Upcoming events with Poetry Promise's Reading Series featuring writers Tohm Bakelas and Alicia Ostriker were discussed. Advertised posted on Instagram and Facebook had been circulated to the Board previously via email for these three events taking place on August 31, 2023, September 2, 2023, and October 15, 2023 with a grant from Nevada Humanities.

Bruce began the discussion of funding and the operation of Poets in the Schools. This discussion highlighted that funding will run extend into November 2023 as weekly spending has reduced. Bruce commented that the Las Vegas slam program was underway in collaboration with Commissioner Tick Segerblom and Las Vegas High School Principal Mr. Raymond Ortiz. He stated the meeting with Congresswoman Dina Titus discuss federal appropriations was still being scheduled and that a Poetry Promise Proposal was being prepared for Congresswoman Susie Lee. Isabelle discussed her meeting with the Director of Development at UNLV, Heather Torgersen, who recommended Poetry Promise reach out to Black Mountain Institute for poetry funding. Isabelle also mentioned the possible path of finding donors with donor advised funds at venues like Nevada Community Foundation who specialize in helping nonprofits find funding that matches donor interests.

Bruce asked that the discussion resume to more practical solutions for the Poets in the Schools program, like sending proposals to Communities in Schools and After-School All Stars with connections provided by Chris. He also stated that several goals of this meeting would be hard to achieve as Chris was not able to attend this meeting. He commented that Chris might be unable to attend the meeting due to the storm making WiFi unavailable from her home for the Zoom meeting. Rosa, Rodney, and Isabelle agreed.

Rodney stated that his wife had a connection with Roots actor Ben Vereen. Ben had stated that he would like to be immersed in the poetry scene, especially with youth programming. Bruce said Isabelle would prepare a Poetry Promise Proposal for Rodney to send to Ben over the weekend.

Rodney moved and Rosa seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried without objection and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:24pm.

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