



HOPE 4 Youth Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 22, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm. Northtown YMCA or Zoom

Board Members Present: Don Phillip, Anna VonRueden, Linda Barnum, Julie Cole, Steve Nash,

Board Members Absent: JJ Slag, Paul Lenzmeier, Pat Chen, Brad Konik, Sue Woodard, Stephan Spears

Staff and Guests Present: LaChelle Williams, Mark McNamer, Nikki Kalvin, Brooke Limanen, Representative Zack Stephenson, Danielle Snider (minutes)

Minutes:

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 5:09 pm by Anna VonRueden.

Mission Moment (Representative Zack Stephenson)

- Representative Zack Stephenson surprised the Board by calling in tonight. The \$8 million funding line was passed by the Senate less than an hour ago and he believes that the House will vote in about an hour. He will connect with LaChelle tomorrow regarding a communication plan. This is a huge deal for our organization to not have to go into a significant capital campaign. We have the right team and infrastructure for this incredible opportunity. (He let LaChelle know at around 6:30 pm that it had passed the House as well. Governor Walz will sign this bill on Wednesday.)

Program Committee Update (Anna VonRueden/ Mark McNamer)

- The committee has a good focus on mental health. Anna has a lot of connections in this area. Pat has connections on the industry side of things. He has talked at length about engaging the community. There is also a new connection for employment and vocational programming.
- We received a \$30,000 FHPAP subgrant. This is for five months. Half of this will go toward direct support to youth getting them into housing and the other half will go toward staffing and operations. Anoka County has agreed to spend \$800k between now and the end of September. There is the potential to receive another \$20,000 through this program. We have improved our status in the community and it is really paying off.
- We have officially signed a new contract with Treehouse. They are a faith-based organization that focuses on youth development and ending youth hopelessness. They also have a true mentor program that we could use down the line.

Board Executive Committee Update (Steve Nash)

- It was a remarkably unremarkable meeting. There were no crisis to deal with. The Operations Plan was reviewed.
- Paul Lenzmeier has submitted his resignation. He is at a point where he is re-prioritizing his life and balance. We appreciate his time and service on the Board. We had a need for new board members before and the need is even greater now.
- When we sold the Administrative Offices, we put the proceeds from the sale into a Building Fund. We need to vote on whether to restrict these funds or not. There is no legal reason to restrict these funds. They are not donor-restricted since it was from the sale of the building. The recommendation from the Executive Committee was to not restrict it at this time. Don Phillips moved to not restrict the Building Fund, simply leaving it in its own account, which was seconded by Julie Cole. All were in favor. The motion carries.
- Don asked if there was a way that we appreciate Board members. He suggested a plaque or something to recognize our Board Members for their service. A thank you on social media was suggested as well.

- Don suggested reaching out to local law enforcement departments in addition to the Anoka County Sheriff's Office. He noted that there would likely be support from local law enforcement offices that want to have input and be seen being involved.
- Steve thanked the Board for their involvement with A Night 4 HOPE. It was a very great and successful event. Steve noted that sometimes all of the behind-the-scenes work goes unseen, and he thanked the staff for their hard work as well.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion made by Don Phillips, seconded by Julie Cole, and passed unanimously to approve the March 27, 2023 minutes.

Finance Committee Update (Brooke Limanen/Don Phillips)

- We have 9.3 months of cash on hand. We are continuing to see the trend of Individuals being down. This is likely due to the timing of our A Night 4 HOPE event. Everything is going well. It's nice that it's unremarkable, but the downward trend in Individuals is concerning. We are showing our strengths in other areas, as evidenced by the fact that we are trending ahead of our forecast as a whole. We thankfully have already planned to use the ERC dollars as a cushion. Don isn't sure that the position could be any better than it is. He is looking forward to our other funding opportunities in the coming months. LaChelle noted that we are going to incur about a \$40k overage in Payroll this year (which we had planned for) due to the additional funding from ERC and the two grants that we received but did not budget for.

Advancement Update (Nikki Kalvin/JJ Slag)

- A Night 4 HOPE raised over \$170,000. We met with the Committee and decided upon returning to Bunker on April 20, 2024, for next year's A Night 4 HOPE. We are currently updating our website and have made several changes and improvements across the website. Our Summer Appeal will hit July and will focus on parenting youth. There are several fall events on the horizon. Nikki and Mari had seven community speaking events last month. All of the Volunteer job descriptions have been updated and that page has been revamped. We are updating hours for Summer at the Donations Center to be every Wednesday and the second Saturday of each month.
- Volunteer and law enforcement recognition on social media was suggested. Don also suggested running an ad in the local newspapers.

Strategic Discussions: Presentation and Feedback (LaChelle Williams)

- Board Development
 - We did an internal gap analysis and determined the following:
 - Industry Needs – Finance (non-profit), Larger Business
 - Competency Needs – Fundraising, Construction, Mission/Program
 - Leadership Needs – Community Influencers
 - With regard to the New Facility body of work, the breakdown is as follows:
 - Board/Committee Responsibilities – New Facility Vision, Location Strategy, Funding Strategy, Financial Oversight, RFP Process (Architect, Construction)
 - Staff Responsibilities – Legislative arena, Community Launch, Building Design, Operational Direction, Program Vision, and Partnership Development
 - Board Development Brainstorming
 - The Building Committee getting up and running is a high priority. LaChelle confirmed that we are very open to having non-Board members serve on the Building Committee for the next year or two. We would love to have a "double-win" though and have these members want to continue to be involved with our organization. Continuity is very important to be able to execute long-term.
 - Steve noted that since the money is not coming through Anoka County, he likely has contacts through Anoka County that would be a resource.
 - Julie noted that Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner may be a good fit for the Board. Steve shared that he believes she would be a fit as well.
 - A school district representative would be welcome as well.
 - Don suggested finding someone from Northeast Youth and Family Services. This would be someone who is in the field and has connections in this arena.
 - Don has a potential BIPOC resource. He and LaChelle will connect to share this information.
 - LaChelle will look into local fire departments as well.

- Don suggested Shane Price. LaChelle suggested reaching out to him to see if there was an Anoka County counterpart he would recommend.
- Don also suggested Joe O'Brien as well. Per Don, he raises a lot of money for the community.
- Julie also suggested connecting with Sue Woodard, as she is very connected.
- As you percolate, please bring forward nominees to LaChelle. She will then bring them to the Executive and Nomination Committees to vet. We will then determine the best person to make the ask. The new board member will then be onboarded to the Board.
- Anna suggested that having a previous HOPE 4 Youth participant serve on the Board would be powerful. It was suggested to have two so that they do not feel tokenized and have a safe space. This would be a good development opportunity for mentorship and support for the former youth. Anna believes that them having a seat at the table is important. LaChelle suggested creating a runway from the current Youth Advisory Committee to potentially roll something like this out in January 2024.

Adjourn

- **Motion** to adjourn was made by Anna VonRueden, seconded by Julie Cole, and approved unanimously.

The meeting ended at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Snider, Administrative Coordinator

Action Items:

- Nikki to look back through Kristin's files for previous Board Appreciation gifts/ideas/departure process. A plaque and social media post were suggested.
- Send 2023 Save the Date and One Pager to board
- Look into Volunteer and law enforcement recognition in the local newspapers and social media.
- Find Board recruitment one-pager in files to refresh for potential board members

Upcoming Events:

- Heartland Tire Golf Tournament – August 21, 2023
- The Darkest Night 4K – September 16, 2023
- Hunt 4 HOPE – September 22, 2023
- Clays 4 Youth – October 3, 2023
- Inspiring HOPE Breakfast – October 25, 2023
- Out of the Cold – November 16, 2023