

Minutes
Bridges Outreach, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 2, 2016
Oakes Center, Summit, NJ

PRESENT: Lois Bhatt, Amanda Parrish Block, Michele Damodaran, Coni Frezzo, Jon Maslin, Coleen McCaffery, Malcolm Mead, Kathy McHale, Jennifer Rooney, Joshua Schor, Victoria Smith, Beth Tulloch, Geoff Worden

ABSENT: Alison Bryant, Laura Zinn Fromm, Brian Ginsburg

The meeting was called to order by Amanda Parrish Block at 6:58 pm.

CONSENT:

Consent Agenda: March 2016 Minutes
Pam Gumport for Board Chair

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Coni Frezzo and seconded by Coleen McCaffery. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Lois Bhatt informed that Runs for the coming year are 75% filled. A new Run location in Manhattan, suggested by the Midnight Run, did not prove to be successful. It will be tried again as we continue looking for a viable location in lower Manhattan.

Both open positions at Project Connect have now been filled, one with a previous intern and the other with a recent college graduate.

The photography exhibit will be on Thursday, May 26 at Gallery Aferro. Postcards for the event will be included in the BridgeFest goody bags, which will also contain a program; a Bridges pad, magnet and flash drive (loaded with Bridges' video); Helen Frank's notecards and an Investors Savings Bank pen.

The Annual Meeting will take place at the Summit Rescue Squad on June 7. 7-7:30pm will be a meet and greet; 7:30-8:30 will provide a recap of the year, along with the Founder's Awards and a video about the photography project.

YCS students who volunteer at Bridges made a nice video about their volunteer experiences. It will be made available on social media.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Beth Tulloch reported although the May date for BridgeFest has turned out to be problematic, we do have about 150 attendees for the event. The food truck had to cancel out, but the caterer has graciously offered to fill in with similar items.

A red binder listing all donor appeals has been assembled. **Every board member is asked to review the binder to make updates.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kathy McHale explained that Bridges is currently on target for a 47K surplus for YE2016. Cash assets are expected to be 631K, which is approximately ten months of operating costs.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Michele Damodaran informed that audit proposals were received from three firms: ZBT, Nisivocchia, and James Wood. Fees were positively correlated to firm size, and James Wood, as the smallest firm, had the lowest fees. Bridges has been pleased with his services and will continue to utilize him as auditor.

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Coni Frezzo reported that the strategic plan is complete. She noted that Beth and Lois put in a significant amount of work to bring this project to fruition. Coni highlighted the three strategic initiatives:

1. To reach a greater number of people on Runs, particularly in lower Manhattan, and to continually monitor changes on the streets so that our programs can best meet the needs of our homeless friends.
 2. To deepen the impact on individual clients at Project Connect, with an emphasis on job-readiness and housing.
 3. To secure Bridges' future by capitalizing on fundraising opportunities and exploring the possibility of a new location for Project Connect in conjunction with Section 8 housing.
- Geoffrey Worden suggested a task force to look at Run structure, specifically to see if we can make the experience more meaningful and engaging for our volunteers. The following will be added to the strategic plan:

"Bridges will create a Run task force which will include a meeting of the volunteer groups to review the shared experience. They will crystalize messaging vis à vis what educators discuss with their students and what the volunteers share of their experience after the Run for education and enrichment of the housed and homeless alike."

Coleen asked that wording on page five of the Strategic Plan be changed slightly to read "Investigate the acquisition *or long-term lease* of a building in Newark's Central Ward as a *more* permanent home for Project Connect that would include Section 8 housing and serve as a source of revenue."

A motion to approve the Strategic Plan, with above addendum and edits, was made by Jon Maslin and seconded by Victoria Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

YE2017 BUDGET

Kathy McHale presented the budget for next year. Projected income is approximately 743K and expenses are 721K. The appeal is expected to raise 140K and the Bash to net 220K. Grants, taking into account multi-year grant cycles, are projected to be 330K.

Administrative expenses are slightly lower, as we will not incur graphic design expenses this year, and program expenses are relatively flat. Employee compensation will increase

11% in order to bring our lowest paid employee up to \$15/hour. Other wages will be scaled up accordingly.

A motion to approve the budget was made by Coni Frezzo and seconded by Jon Maslin. Motion passed unanimously.

NOMINATING

The nominating committee met with two candidates this evening and was impressed by their commitment to Bridges; Josh Schor distributed their bios to the group. Board members should have received a board survey in their emailed packet. All are asked to take a moment to fill it out and to sign up for a quick meeting with members of the nominating committee for a brief discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

UPCOMING DATES:

Saturday, May 7, 2016	BridgeFest at the Morristown Museum, Morristown
Thursday, May 26, 201	Photography Exhibit at Gallery Aferro, Newark
Tuesday, June 7, 2016	Annual Meeting at the Summit Rescue Squad, Summit

Respectfully submitted by Michele Damodaran

