

MINUTES
SPECIAL ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
AUGUST 5, 2020
ZOOM VIDEO

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen
JoanElaine Anderson
Nilo Choudhry
Cammy DuPont
Elizabeth Espinosa
Zoey Giesberg
Mayra Mezquita
Betty Pearson-Grimble
Todd Rubien
Alejandro Soschin
Russell Tanner
Sofia M. Vergara
David Wyles
Vanda Yung

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Thompson Kelly, Cesar Garcia, Danny Franco, Hillary Kessler, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser, Liz Spencer, Sonya Lowe, Kate Harvey, Rhiannon Maycumber, Niaisha Gonzalez, Deborah Diaz, Kenia Torres, Aga Spatzier, Joanne Manese, Rachel Credo, Sarah Catherine Golden, Sarah Williams, Susana Gonzalez Rico, Ron Lopez, Natalie Monge, Lidia Rosales, Myriam Garcia, Sonia Soriano, Barbara Marbach, Martha Thompson, Feben Fantu, Stephanie Lee, Liddy Amador, Megan Tommet-Ramirez, Angela Quinonez, Monica Jauregui, Carol Taylor, Jose Reyes, Megan Mendes, Ari Zeldin, Laveeza Bhatti, Candace Hein, Patricia Crook, Linda Butler, Stephen Browning, Anjanette Robinson, Ereida Galda, Bernadette Daroca, Ana Da Silva, Carol Taylor, Claudia Williams

GUESTS: Tonie Schulz (Interpreter), Sonia Hernandez (Interpreter), Carla Castaneda DDS, Edwin Pineda DDS, Megan Mitchell DDS, Sherry Alvarez, Lisa Anderson, Karina Andrade, Leticia Antonio, Janet Astocondor, Elizabeth Bogen, Martha Chávez, Gia Civerolo, Luisa Delgadillo, Linda Demer, Kristen Evans, Felicia Ford, Richard Frey, Teresa Garcia, Francis Gomez, Elizabeth Gomez, Dave Hadacek, Katie Hornberger, Beverly Hutchinson, Marcia James, Kedrin Johnson, Esther Kelsey, Connie Lapin, Shellena Leftridge, Carla Lehmann, Ron Lopez, Adriana Madrigal, Judy Mark DVU, Carlyn Meshack, Katie Meyer, Natalie Monge, Kay Mullen, Teri Mulugeta, Sacha Naschinski, Guadalupe Nolasco, Tresa Oliveri, LaKieya Patterson, Tamra Pauly, Fotini Revivo, Lidia Rosales, Ellen Seldon, Dana Simon, Lisa Szilagyi, Mulugeta Tadelem, Gabriela Uriarte, Mitra Vahid, Marcia Valner, Miriam Ventura, Wesley Witherspoon, Elaine Wright-Forris, Robte, Arlyn, Leilani

CALL TO ORDER (ACTION*)

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Dr. Sofia Vergara at 6:05pm.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to Section 3.03 (g) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:

(g) Quorum

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members of the corporation. Provided, however, that a quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Directors then in office at any time when the number of Directors then in office is less than ten (10)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dr. Sofia Vergara, Board President, welcomed everyone and explained the process of public comment during a Zoom Meeting. She also noted that there will be a closed session following the first public comment portion of this meeting to conduct contract negotiations for the new WRC Executive Director.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Judy Mark, DVU, let everyone know that DVU is holding its 17th (and final) webinar tomorrow about Self Advocacy. Next week, the DVU meetings will focus on election next November including; the census, how to vote, understanding voting and the issues presented. DVU will continue partnering with the Regional Centers, Disability Rights, State Counsel, and all the other organizations vital to this community. Judy also thanked Dr. Vergara for her service on the Board.
- Felicia Ford asked about the format of the meeting and when the public comment sections will happen.
- Wesley Witherspoon noted that he has gotten calls from his peers about being lonely and wanting more social interactions.
- Liz Spencer, Director of the FRC, asked for clarification of a comment from Alex Soschin from last meeting. Alex clarified that he was committed to staying connected and doing work on behalf of the disability community, even when he is no longer a Board Member.

CLOSED SESSION

Employment and Contract Negotiation and Litigation Update (California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4663(a)(2)(3)&(5))

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JULY 8, 2020 BOARD MEETING

(ACTION*)

Nilo Choudhry, Board Member (Motion) and, Zoey Giesberg, Board Member, (Second) the approval of the July 8th, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

No public comment. The motion passed.

13 AYES

0 NO

1 ABSTENTIONS

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JULY 8, 2020 BOARD MEETING.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

THE SLATE OF PROPOSED OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS WAS PRESENTED AT THE JULY 8, 2020 BOARD MEETING:

DIRECTORS

**Joseph Allen Jr.
Nilo Choudhry
Elizabeth Espinosa
Zoey Giesberg
Myra Mezquita
Betty Pearson-Grimble
Todd Rubien
Russell Tanner
David Wyles
Vanda Yung**

Note: Joan Elaine Anderson was elected by SPAC as WRC 'SPAC Representative' for 2020-2021

OFFICERS SLATE

**PRESIDENT - Betty Pearson-Grimble
VICE PRESIDENT - Nilo Choudhry
TREASURER - Vanda Yung
SECRETARY - Todd Rubien**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (MEMBERS)

Zoey Giesberg, Board Member (Motion) and, Elizabeth Espinosa, Board Member (second) to approve the Board of Directors Members Slate

- 14 AYES**
- 0 NO**
- 0 ABSTENTIONS**

RESOLUTION: Board of Directors Member Slate is APPROVED with 10 members, 11 including SPAC Representative Joan Elaine Anderson

OFFICERS SLATE

Elizabeth Espinosa, Board Member (Motion) and, Mayra Mezquita, Board Member (Second) to approve Officer's Slate as presented

Alejandro Soschin, Board Member (Motion) and Vanda Yung (Second), amended the motion to nominate Dr. Sofia Vergara to the Board members and to the officers slate as President Candidate

Dr. Sofia Vergara had previously submitted a letter of resignation from the Board of Directors at the end of June 2020. Dr. Vergara rescinded her resignation after this nomination.

RESOLUTION: DR. SOFIA VERGARA ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION TO REMAIN ON THE BOARD AND RUN FOR THE POSITON OF PRESIDENT.

VOTING

➤ **SECRET BALLOT FOR THE VOTE OF PRESIDENT:**

VOTING OPTIONS: Betty Pearson-Grimble (Slate) or Dr. Sofia Vergara (Nominated Member)

- **Betty Pearson-Grimble has MAJORITY vote**

RESOLUTION: BETTY PEARSON-GRIMBLE IS ELECTED WRC BOARD PRESIDENT

➤ **VICE PRESIDENT - Nilo Choudhry**

Elizabeth Espinosa, Board Member (Motion) and Todd Rubien, Co-Secretary (Second)

- **14 AYES**
- **0 NO**
- **0 ABSTENTIONS**

RESOLUTION: NILO CHOUDHRY IS ELECTED WRC BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

➤ **TREASURER (Acting) - Vanda Yung**

Cammy Starks-Dupont, Treasurer (Motion) and Mayra Mezquita, Board Member (Second)

- **14 AYES**
- **0 NO**
- **0 ABSTENTIONS**

RESOLUTION: VANDA YUNG IS ELECTED (ACTING) WRC BOARD TREASURER

➤ **SECRETARY - Todd Rubien**

Mayra Mezquita, Board Member (Motion) and, Cammy Starks-Dupont, Treasurer (Second)

- 14 AYES
- 0 NO
- 0 ABSTENTIONS


RESOLUTION: TODD RUBIEN IS ELECTED WRC BOARD SECRETARY

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Various Board members thanked Cammy and Alex for their excellent work on the Board and wished them well in their future endeavors. Various Board members also thank Dr. Sofia Vergara for deciding to remain on the Board as an acting member. Dr. Sofia Vergara stated that it has been an honor to serve as Board President and that she is excited to continue to do this great work as a member of the Board.
- An anonymous participant reminded the Board that as per the by-laws, Dr. Sofia Vergara will be able to remain on the Board Executive Committee as an ex-officio member.
- An anonymous participant suggested that the members of the Board participate in WRC's Person-Centered Thinking (PCT) Training, in order to continue working to uphold WRC's commitment to such practices.
- Judy Mark commented that she appreciates Dr. Vergara's upstanding attitude and grace, even in the face of not being reelected as Board President. Judy also noted that we need to work harder to have more representation of persons-served in officer positions.
- Felicia Ford commented on the importance of language in regards to race, and the implications of using harmful language to make a point. She notes that Black voices still need to be heard but continue to be under represented in all factions. Finally, Felicia thanked Dr. Vergara for her continuing work on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The Board Meeting was adjourned by Dr. Sofia Vergara at 8:49 pm. She thanked everyone for her time as Board President and congratulated Betty Pearson-Grimble as the new President.



Todd Rubien
Board Co-Secretary