

# January Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 22, 2026

Facilitated by: Diana McCall

In attendance: Loki Donohue, Susan Freeman, Josh Franks, Sara Ness, Rob Heskett, Javonne Green, Lauren Clark

A quorum is established

Additional attendees: Jenesis Nicolaisen, Melisa Gonzalez

Meeting held online via Zoom and in person at the United Way Building in Conference Room 1, In Asheville, NC, USA from 4:00pm-5:30pm

## **New Year's Reflections**

The meeting began with participants sharing something new or meaningful from their new year, such as new budgets, ideas, experiences, and personal transformations. This provided an opportunity for the group to connect and set the tone for the meeting.

## **Honoring Astral's Legacy**

The group took time to honor the life and impact of Astral, a former member who had recently passed away. Participants shared memories, gratitude, and reflections on the ongoing connection they feel to Astral and his work, even after his physical passing.

## **Reviewing the 2026 Budget**

The majority of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing and approving the 2026 organizational budget. It was unanimous. Josh Franks and Melissa presented the detailed budget, which included projected income, expenses, and a surplus. The group discussed the budget assumptions, alignment with the strategic plan, and the process for making adjustments if needed. No deliberation or risks raised by board members.

## **Onboarding New Board Members**

The meeting concluded with a discussion about onboarding new board members Javonne and Rob. The group shared feedback on the onboarding process so far, including what has worked well and any areas for improvement. The group also confirmed the schedule for future board meetings.

## **Closing and Next Steps**

The meeting closed with a review of upcoming board meeting dates and a reminder to stay safe in the winter weather. The group expressed gratitude for the productive discussion and the hard work that went into preparing the 2026 budget.