SIMON'S Heart

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Q2 Meeting/Holiday Party
December 8, 2025 | 6:00 PM
Seasons 52

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Darren Sudman. Due to unforeseen circumstances and scheduling conflicts, several board members were unable to attend. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Roll Call/Attendance
Present: Mitch Bednoff, Brian Brick, Scott Brucker, Rayna Jones, Raj Kapur, Annie Kelly, Venkat Ramamurthy, Darren Sudman, Phyllis Sudman.
Absent (reported): Dom Folino**,** Jeff Krawitz, Joe Secoges, David Shipon, Justin Will.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
None

4. Mission Statement & Values

The Chair read the mission and organizational values were reaffirmed.

5. Mission Moment

Darren shared a recent mission moment illustrating the organization's indirect and unplanned impact. A donor, Mike Berman, contributed unexpectedly and shared that his son, Luke (early 20s), sought medical evaluation after experiencing cardiac symptoms. Luke was motivated to speak up after exposure to Simon's Heart's story and the loss of a friend, Blake Barklage. Medical testing revealed damage to both ventricles; diagnosis is ongoing. The family is now connected with CHOP for further discussion and care.

6. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was presented for approval.No concerns or requests for discussion were raised.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda as presented.

- Motion: Made and seconded
- Vote: Unanimous approval

Outcome: Consent agenda approved.

7. Board Outreach Initiative – Status Review & Discussion

Darren reviewed the board outreach initiative launched in late October and supported by a shared Google document.

Discussion Highlights:

- Most members confirmed receipt of the outreach email and access to the document.
- Several members noted:
    - Difficulty identifying assigned contacts
    - Access issues to the shared document
    - Delays due to personal or professional obligations
- Some outreach emails were sent with limited or no response to date.
- Members emphasized that year-end timing may affect responsiveness.

Process Feedback & Ideas:

- Copying staff (Lindsay) on outreach emails to support timely follow-up
- Using a secondary follow-up email to increase response rates
- Acknowledging the mental and relational barriers associated with donor outreach
- Importance of notifying staff or leadership when delays occur for transparency

Summary:

- The goal is clarity, transparency, and shared accountability, not fault-finding.
- Members were encouraged to communicate status updates when progress is delayed.
- Staff support and follow-up strategies will be refined

8. Board Composition – New Member Nomination

The Chair presented the nomination of **Kristin Morris** to join the Board of Directors.

Background:

- Simon's Heart currently has 14 board members; bylaws recommend 15.
- Kristin brings a strong marketing and communications background.
- Formerly with Dudnik, the agency that supported Simon's Heart pro bono and earned industry recognition for its work on behalf of the organization.
- Her resume and background materials were shared in advance.

Discussion:

- Board members expressed strong support and positive professional references.
- The addition aligns with board composition goals and current needs.

Motion: To approve Kristin Morris as a member of the Board of Directors.

- Motion: Made and seconded

- Vote: Unanimous approval

Outcome: Kristin Morris approved as a Board Member.

9. Consideration of Consultant Agreement of Darren Sudman

- The Board reviewed the proposed consulting agreement for Darren Sudman to receive compensation for the work he is performing on behalf of Simon's Heart
- The Board expressed unanimous support of the Consulting agreement
- Motion: Made and seconded
- Vote: Unanimous approval

10. Adjournment of Formal Business at 6:48. Dinner commenced.