RODS Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 15, 2026
Attendees: Keith, Linda, Jim, Anda, Bina, Maria, Kate

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1. Building / Facilities Update

- Follow-up from previous meeting on building and lease costs.
- Reviewed current rental cost per square foot at existing location.
- Discussed alternative location (Rose & 12th; approx. $20/sq ft).
- Current Smith Street location identified as too small for operations.
- Keith received legal clearance received to approach landlord (Lou) to negotiate lower rent.
- Exploring other building options to reduce operating costs.

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2. Daycare Program Review

Financial Sustainability

- Financial analysis (Linda) shows current 64-spot daycare is **not sustainable**.
- Only ~26 part-time (half-day) spots currently utilized.
- Conclusion: capacity exceeds demand and program need.

Strategic Considerations

- Daycare exists to **remove barriers to language program access**, not to serve the broader community.
- Discussion on aligning size/function of daycare with actual program needs.
- Consideration of reducing to a smaller model (e.g., ~20 spots).

Operational Questions

- If programs shift to remote delivery, daycare value may decrease.
- Regulatory update: infants require more space than toddlers → potential to reduce infant spots.

External Context & Next Steps

- Other organizations (e.g., SODS) have closed daycares and partnered with community providers.
- **Action:** Tatiana to research alternative daycare models and partnerships.
- **Action:** Linda to explore feasibility of a smaller daycare model and ensure it meets funder requirements.
- Further discussion required before final direction.

3. Cash Position Update

- IRCC has paid part of LINC and RRLIP funding in advance (expected timing: May).

4. FY 2026–27 Budget (Draft – Status Quo Scenario)

- Budget built on "status quo" assumptions:
    - Maintains current service levels and structure (including daycare size).
    - Adjusts only for known revenue/expense changes.
    - Reflects current staffing levels (including recent layoffs).
- Assumes continued rent at Donahue location for current and next year.

Financial Pressures & Options

- Potential improvements:
    - Move to Smith Street earlier.
    - Reduce daycare size.
    - Negotiate lower rent.
- "Kids First" reserves could support transition to Smith Street and improve cash flow.

Key Notes

- This budget scenario will be presented to the Board at next meeting.
- 50th Anniversary costs are **not included** in the 2026–27 budget.
- Current outlook includes an approximate **$79K <u>accounting</u> deficit in 2026-27** (before accounting for any further changes, including Gala spending, other costs, and other savings). **A <u>cash</u> surplus of $67k has been budgeted for 26-27.**

- Forecasts were received for 27-28 and 28-29. Small loss forecasted for 27-28 with 28-29 being more problematic.

5. Investments

- Decision deferred; tabled until next meeting.

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6. Gala (May 22, 2026)

- Event scheduled for May 22 (evening).
- Cost: $1,500 per table (8 seats).

Logistics & Funding

- Keith to contact BK Waldu for additional information.
- Funds have not yet been transferred; designated donation not yet received.
- Staff attending are considered “working” and will not be charged.

Participation

- Board members to be asked about attendance at upcoming Board meeting.
- Target: 4 RODS directors attending.

Cost Strategy

- Directors encouraged to make donations to offset table cost (goal: cover food only).

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7. 50th Anniversary

- Planning underway (led by Victoria and Shelly).
- Just RODS staff putting it together
- Goal includes subsidizing client attendance.
- Event seen as valuable for exposure despite costs.

Next Steps

- **Action:** Jim to prepare a one-page decision item for Board consideration of spending on this event.

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8. Medical Support for Refugees

Current Situation

- Increasing need for medical accommodations among clients due changes in support from IRCC.
- Keith developed service categories to support a business case.

Proposal

- Consider approval of medical support as a **pilot program (3-6 months?)**.
- Potential expansion of $50K fund to broaden eligibility beyond GAR clients.

Discussion

- IRCC may be revising related policies, which could increase demand on emergency services.
- Categories would enable tracking of costs and targeted fundraising.

Decisions / Next Steps

- General support for pilot approach.
- **Action:** Develop decision item reflecting pilot scope and funding expansion.
- Clarify details of coverage before Board approval.

Adjournment

- Kate departed prior to meeting conclusion.