

SEAPAX Retreat Meeting Minutes 11/7/2021

Date: November 7, 2021

Time: 10:00 am-12:30pm

Location: Zoom

Attendees:

Brad Cleveland, Brendan Chiesa, Erin Collins, Joshua Jackson, Erin Branigan, Aaron De Sal, Sally Holmes, Britany Ferrell, Lillian Baer, Kathleen Sebastian, Beth Ahlstrom, Carolee Walters,, Evangelina Sundgrenz, Kenney Tran, Jerome Siangco, John Berry, Garrett Morkill,, Briana Celaya, Darien Luce, Lee Daneker.

Member Guests: Gail Coburn, Christian Halloway, Emily Neilson

Note: Light colored font indicates individual was not present at meeting

1. Introductions

- a. Introduction to board members, roles & committees

2. Approve minutes from the last board meeting

- a. Brad motions to approve, John seconds motion, all approved, none opposed.

Motion passed.

- i. Ballot measures approved to change committee name to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

3. SEAPAX by the numbers

- a. Membership committee: by October 15th SEAPAX had 1360 active members, 74 new members and \$1,1670 in Dues/Donations

- b. Communications Committee: webmaster goal is to update the website, Teesprings and email to make them more functional

- i. Budget request; \$644.00: \$500.00 to renew Silkstart platform, \$144.00 for Newtek email hosting platform

c. Social media: Facebook page has 1,822 followers. Most of them are younger living in the Seattle area. Afghan refugee program had the most viewed posts at 200

d. Newsletter: Sally publishes the newsletter the first Monday of the month and began publishing a mid-month newsletter as necessary. In the month of October 1,228 members received the newsletter (↓ 85 from last year); the mean open rate in 2021 was 39 percent (↑ 1% from last year); and the mean click rate was 4 percent (↑ .5% from last year) e. Merchandise: Calendar profit \$44, Teespring \$116.75 Placed advertisements in newsletters every other month and provided funds for small grants program. Beth asked how much we get per calendar and if we could bring calendars to Happy Hour. We receive 40% of the profit but we no longer buy calendars in bulk to bring to and sell at in-person events. Would have to bring a sample calendar. Brad suggested we buy 5 sample calendars.

i. Budget request: \$100.00 for 5 calendars

4. Advocacy (Jerome/Eva)

a. Progress forming relationships with congress members that have not supported the Peace Corps in the past. Outreach has been enhanced due to a more coordinated response to districts not traditionally involved with SEAPAX.

b. Looking to increase the Peace Corps budget by 30 million. Trying to get more congress meetings in March during Peace Corps Week and more Washington statewide meetings.

5. Mentorship (Jenn/Beth/Christian Holloway)

a. Christian Holloway: participant in mentorship program. Felt the mentorship program was incredibly helpful in transition to states and move to Seattle

b. Jen “how has the mentorship program changed over the past year?” The program has slowed down since it was first started. In 2021 we have matched 12 mentees and two new mentors. The program is beginning to settle into a trend of what will be a standard flow. Most recent applicants are people who have just or are about to move to Seattle and are looking to connect professionally.

c. Beth mentioned as a mentor it took persistence to coordinate with mentee. As time goes on the relationship tends to drift and contact is lost between the mentor and mentee. Recommends preparing mentees for this.

6. Community Service (Ellen/John)

a. Focus is on refugee/immigration services with local affiliates and continuing welcome kits for refugees

b. John asked about what volunteer priorities SEAPAX members have and suggested developing a survey for general topics, where are people serving and how we can help meet people's needs. Goal: 3-4 quarterly volunteer events. John suggested creating opportunities for volunteers that are demand driven, allows people to get together and can develop a long term relationship with institutions. Currently losing \$1,129 but have money saved in the checking account.

7. DEI (Kenney)

a. Kenney wants to continue community-based work and reach out to other NPCA groups. He wants to conduct conversations to build an equitable group reflecting DEI ideologies- potential to reshape pc outlook, approach, ideology, functionality, etc.

8. Financial Report and 2022 Budget (Lee/Josh)

a. Reviewed YTD financials, which are consistent with thin operating margins SEAPAX has seen in recent years. Brad mentioned donations and membership dues have been left off, once numbers are added we will be breaking even. Josh suggested having further discussion on purpose of group, what are we doing, how to raise money for projects

b. Lee had some concerns using QuickBooks vs Excel. Josh is willing to spend a few hours to help, says QuickBooks will not take long to learn.

c. Links to recent financial updates

i. [SEAPAX Statement+of+Activity \(15\).xlsx - Google Sheets](#)

ii.

9. Open discussion: Final thoughts, comments, questions for group

a. Book Club: Darien has stepped down from the Board, and Gail Coburn is now leading the book club. On average there are about 6 people, usually women. Gail asked for book recommendations and wants to look into how to get more people to join next year. Eva suggested adding it to the website calendar. Lillian also had a suggestion to invite people even if they have not read the book.