

SEAPAX Board Meeting 5/2/2021

Minutes

Date: May 2, 2021

Time: 10:00am-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, Megyn Rodriguez, Evangelina Sundgrenz, *Andrea Shelton*, Kenney Tran, Jerome Siangco, John Berry, *Garrett Morkill*, Hillary Abrams, *Briana Celaya*

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

1. Introductions

- a. Announcements: Board members stepping down include Hillary Abrams (Events Chair; effective immediately), Megan Rodriguez (Events/Diversity & Inclusion Chair; effective May 31st), Brad Cleveland (President; effective December 31st)
- b. Introductions to board members, roles and committees
- c. Guest: Ellen Arnstein (RPCV), environmental volunteer 2007-2008 Bolivia,; interested in refugee and immigrants service activities (see below).

2. Approve Minutes

- a. Brad motioned to approve minutes, Joshua Jackson seconded, all approved, none opposed

3. Collaboration with Peace Corps Community for Refugees (PCC4R) & Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) Update (Lilian Baer/Ellen Arnstein)

- a. PCC4R, Peace Corps Community for Refugees <pcc4refugees.org>, asked SEAPAX if we are willing to partner with **LIRS** (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)), through its local partner is **LCSNW** Lutheran Community Services Northwest. We would help them support local refugees and immigrants through various volunteer opportunities.

When initially suggested to Seapax members through a previous newsletter, seven people offered to help. We will share information when we know how Seapax is supporting this program. Lillian Baer and Ellen Arnstein will follow up and let members know through the Newsletter and FB page.

b. Eva asked if Ellen found Hopelink in her research. They have opportunities to teach English, help in finding work, goal attainment and coaching in King County. John Berry asked how we can make it easy to be a volunteer and highlight specific opportunities to help people get involved.

c. Ellen is willing to serve as a liaison in the Seattle area, to create a list of volunteer opportunities for SEAPAX members with other organizations working with refugees and immigrants, and perhaps to help organize periodic service events for our members to be more directly involved..

4. Board Listserv and email Issues (Eva)

a. We currently use a company (Newtek) that has placed us on a legacy platform policy which has caused many problems for too long. The company has taken months to figure out how our email is structured and formatted. Our current options are sticking with the current plan or move to something like Google Workspace or another alternative email service and see how we can work around these issues. Brendan brought up the option of possibly using Microsoft 360 or other options if we are going to change the entire system. The goal is to create stability in our email/communication structure by the end of the year so in 2022 there can be more focus on the website, which would give us a more forward focus for the group. It is not recommended to use board@seapax.org when emailing the entire Board . Use the contact list on the Google Drive.

5. Board “Restructure” Update

a. Update on board restructure

6. 2022 Board elections

a. Brad will reach out to individuals to see if board members will stay on the board or change positions.

7. Finances (Josh)

- a. Finance updates are in the Seapax Treasurer folder. At this point we need to decide if and how to grow financially as an organization. Over the last five years, we have not maintained a surplus through revenue generating operations and we need to decide if we want to make more money to be able to give it away in grants. Brad posed two questions to consider if we do wish to grow our available funds: What does that mean? How do we get there?
- b. Calendar's budget changed to \$150 for advocacy. \$1000 has moved from membership fees revenue to donation. Note that we are no longer asking for fees/dues as a requisite for becoming a member of Seapax.
- c. Teesprings is currently running on autopilot and needs someone to run it.
- d. Brendan motioned to approve the budget, Josh seconded, all approved, none opposed.