

SEAPAX Board Meeting 9/12/2021

Minutes

Date: September 12th, 2021

Time: 10:00am – 11:30 am

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*

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

1. Introductions

- a. Introductions to board member, roles and committees
- b. Guest: Lee Daneker will be our incoming treasurer, Ellen Arnstein is a returning guest from Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCNWS), she was an environmental volunteer in Bolivia 2007-2008

2. Approve Minutes from last Board meeting

- a. Brad motioned to approve minutes, Sally seconded, all approved none opposed, motion passed.

3. Support of Local Refugees (Ellen/Lillian)

- a. Lutheran Community Services - LCSNW - is arranging starter/welcoming kits with supplies for things such as household items, personal care, kitchen items, baby items, etc. Ellen suggested that SEAPAX help bring in donations for the kits. She is willing to act as a collector for donated items.
- b. SEAPAX could also provide funds to purchase missing pieces to make up complete sets for kits that need them. SEAPAX could put messaging out on social media platforms asking members to help donate items for incomplete kits. Brad asked

if there is an option to make monetary donations. Another suggestion is to wait and see what we get from donations of items, and then see if the monetary donations can complete the kits. If there are still items missing, we can approve a certain amount of SEAPAX funds to cover missing items. Making a monetary donation to this organization is another option, but currently there is no way to directly donate to the starter kits.

c. Ellen will arrange a date for dropping off items, she will follow up with a list of items needed. Beth offered to be a drop off location for the greater Tacoma area.

4. Advocacy Updates (Beth/Erin B/Jerome/Kenney)

a. Advocacy team aim for August and September to update legislators about the Peace corps budget increase from 410-430 million.

b. Erin created a list of congressmen/women in the state for each district

c. Beth reached out to representative Rick Larsen from the 2nd congressional district. There is a meeting scheduled for the following week with the foreign policy director in D.C.

d. Kenney (7th congressional district): no updates

i. The 60th anniversary of the NPCA conference will be held virtually and free of charge. It will be held on September 22nd, the day the Peace Corps Act was signed by President Kennedy.

e. Jerome: no updates

5. Board elections & Annual Retreat (Brad)

a. All members running are currently unopposed. The position of Vice President is vacant.

b. Annual Retreat date and schedule will be finalized by officers and DALs.

c. Brad will send email with information for committee chairs about what to prepare for the retreat

6. Board manual (Brad)

a. Voting ballot for finalizing the new board manual is open to everyone on the board, not just those with voting rights. There needs to be a majority to either approve or disapprove.

b. Main changes include requiring board members to attend at least 5 out of 6 meetings. This has changed from a previous requirement of attending 4 meetings. There will not be a mandatory requirement for donations but board members will be strongly encouraged to donate \$15.00.

7. Recent & Future Events (Aaron/Brendan/Carolee/Garrett)

a. Aaron De Sal: campout was a great success with a lot of turnout. The picnic was equally successful. The holiday party is usually held at a private residence but there will be further discussion considering the state of Covid-19. The goal is to have it scheduled by November.

b. Garrett: The first Happy Hour was held in over a year which was well attended with about 8-10 people.

c. The last book club of the year will be held on October 10th.

8. Finances (Josh)

a. Josh was unable to attend the meeting. Here are the links to the recent financial updates.

i. [SEAPAX_Statement+of+Financial+Position \(5\).xlsx - Google Sheets](#)

ii. [SEAPAX_Statement+of+Activity \(12\).xlsx - Google Sheets](#)

9. Newsletter submissions (Sally)

a. There has been an increase of information after the deadline for submission to the newsletter. Just a reminder the newsletter goes out the first Monday of every month and the deadline for items to be submitted is the previous Wednesday.