



SEAPAX
BRINGING THE WORLD HOME

WWW.SEAPAX.ORG

SEAPAX Board Meeting Minutes, Sunday. April 7, 2013, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Northgate branch Seattle Public Library

In Attendance: Simone LaPray, Carey Homen, Lillian Baer, Dina Davis, Jaron Reed, Temma Pistrang, Joana Ramos, Scott Ramos. Absent was: Shahida Shahrir.

Simone called the meeting of the Board to order at 1:12 and passed out copies of the meeting agenda and SEAPAX bylaws.

1. **Introductions** of those present, and presentation of the new Board of Directors (present and absent), as follows: President Simone LaPray, Vice President Lillian Baer, Treasurer Carey Homen, Secretary Dina Davis, Member at Large Jaron Reed, Member at Large Joana Ramos, Member at Large Shahida Shahrir (absent).

2. **Financial** – As of 03/18/2013, the Balance was 3,351.57.

3. **Grants** – Simone discussed the grant process:

A. No projects have been selected for grants this year.

B. Special consideration will be given to proposals that offer opportunities for volunteer involvement by SEAPAX members.

C. Local projects will receive special attention over PCPP and other non-local requests.

D. The grant committee will meet 3 times a year to consider applications. Meeting dates, application materials and criteria will be available at the Grants tab on www.seapax.org.

E. Vetting of projects for funding will be done by the Grants Committee. Voting on Grants is proposed to be open to all members during in-person voting at the Board meeting.

F. Simone will prepare an article for the newsletter discussing grant availability and criteria.

4. **Membership** More need to be done to promote the benefits of SEAPAX membership to increase

membership and participation.

The following policy guidelines were proposed:

1. The first year of membership is free to returning Volunteers.
2. SEAPAX is a membership organization, meaning that RPCVs who attend events or use services should be encouraged to become members.
3. There can be flexibility in the \$15/year cost of membership. The Board may waive or reduce the cost to a prospective member in the case of hardship or may allow a member to trade effort (committee chair, etc) for dues when requested and approved by the Board.
4. Yearly membership dues are \$15.

A Membership committee was formed with Temma and Dina. Temma will chair. Tasks assigned to the committee include:

- A. Reviewing implications of changing to a calendar year membership -meaning that all memberships renew in January.
- B. The committee will discuss changes to the membership policies and present the findings to the Board.
- C. The committee will draft a "Welcome Letter" and a "Guide to SEAPAX" for new members.

Scott is requested to put Temma and Dina on the members@seapax.org email.

Proposals regarding membership for later discussion/ implementation:

- A. Jaron proposed a membership drive program in which 3 projects requesting grants be offered. New members can choose a project and their dues would be applied directly to that project. This would emphasize the active positive effect of membership. She will write up a suggested format for this.
- B. Every Board member is to encourage one new person to join the Board during the year.
- C. All Board meetings were proposed to be open to general membership. It is understood that the Board is responsible for deliberations and decisions but discussions of the issues shall be open to all members.
- D. A change in the Board service term to January to January instead of April to April was

proposed. If the membership year is changed the Board would match that cycle. Also the current system is especially stressful for those who are involved with taxes.

E. Jaron offered to work on a map of countries of service/years of SEAPAX members to use as a networking and marketing tool.

F. Carey suggested more direct networking gatherings for SEAPAX members to address some of the desires of new members who are seeking employment or connections.

G. A regular newsletter feature "Spotlight on an RPCV" was suggested.

When requests for contact of a SEAPAX member is received, policy shall be to provide the member with the requester's information for them to make the contact.

5. **Newsletter** – The next issue will appear on the first Monday in May (May 6).

A. Dina said that submissions can be prepared ready to put into the newsletter with a byline (preferred), or links to an article of interest can be provided and Dina will prepare it for publication.

B. The posting of job opportunities and non-SEAPAX events was discussed. No objections were heard to the current policy of including any event or job that is of potential interest to the RPCV community.

C. Shahida will continue to review the newsletter draft, with Simone as her backup.

We are discussing the need for a Communications person on the board, someone who can manage all the social media, including announcements and information sharing with members and others in touch with SEAPAX. While we have not yet made the move, some of the key board members are taking initiative in sharing information.

5. **Mentoring Program** Catherine will meet with Lillian to handover mentoring information.

6. **Fundraising update**

A. Jennifer Samnick Baugh is working on a final accounting of monies from calendar sales. A few calendars are still available. They may be given out as premiums to new members or offered for sale for \$5 (our cost).

B. Simone has a number of large posters gathered at the Boise meeting. She suggested setting up a \$1/chance raffle for these posters through a charity auction website.

7. **Report on Boise Meeting** Due to time limitations Simone briefly summarized activities at the

Boise meeting. She will submit a full report to the Board later. Simone handed out copies of the Inland RPCV (Idaho) annual report & newsletter for the information of the SEAPAX Board. Stay tuned for information on the Boise regional 3rd goal workshop.

8. Simone requested permission to buy SEAPAX “networking cards”. She presented a printout of the proposed card. The card could be used by all Board members and distributed to prospective members for various contacts on behalf of SEAPAX. The cost of 250 cards is less than \$20. A vote was taken and purchase of cards was approved.

9. **Upcoming activities** Picnic is scheduled for July 13. The location and date of the campout has not yet been finalized. The Peace Corps Nomination Party (for newly selected PCV’s who have not yet departed) will be May 16 on the UW campus. Details will be in the next newsletter.

10. **NPCA**

The Board extended their thanks to Joana Ramos for all the work she has put in preparing and submitting the SEAPAX paperwork for NCPA renewal. Joana, you are awesome.

A. Paulette will be our new representative to NPCA, replacing Darryl Johnson. She is running unopposed. A \$100 contribution from SEAPAX for travel costs to the DC and regional meetings was approved. The Board will expect her to be the intermediary in a dialogue with the NPCA, and to report on meeting activities. The board recommended that the presidents of the various RPCV groups that will be represented by Paulette (Northwest) communicate and cooperate to provide funds to support our representative.

B. SEAPAX has received communications from the NPCA Advocacy Director Jonathan Pearson that he will be in the area this month. No one was planning to go to Issaquah to meet with him; however if he does come to Seattle, Lillian and Jaron could meet with him. The Panama Hotel was suggested as a location. WHO WILL MAKE THE CONTACT? SIMONE?

C. Currently, no one from SEAPAX plans to go to the Boston NPCA meeting. Chuck McConnell of the Columbia River RPCV group has offered to represent SEAPAX there.

11. There was not time to discuss Policy Changes, Review of the By-Laws, and the presentation/training on the legal status of SEAPAX and responsibilities of the organization (and the board and members) at this meeting. We have proposed focusing on this at the upcoming meetings. Joana has offered to lead the board and others present through exercises to learn and participate

more fully in this process.

12. The next Board meeting will be as follows:

Tuesday, May 7, 6pm at the home of Carey Homen.

Sunday, June 30, 1pm. Dina will secure a library location.

Tuesday, August 20 at a location TBD

13. The meeting was adjourned at 3:07pm

Respectfully submitted

Dina Davis, SEAPAX Secretary