



SEAPAX

BRINGING THE WORLD HOME

WWW.SEAPAX.ORG

SEAPAX Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 26, Antioch University, South Lake Union, Seattle

Leadership team members present: Carey Homan, Shahida Shahrir, Joana Ramos, Dina Davis, Daniel Poppe, Scott Ramos, Kate Lawyer. Excused : Jessica Matthews, Paulette Thompson
Absent: Marilee Fuller, Carolee Walters

Members and guests present: Sala Sweet (Ghana), Mark Hower (Sierra Leone mid 80's), Temma Pistrang (Uganda), Jill and Markus McKay-Fleisch (Burkina Faso), Marta Taggart (Romania), Deborah Buckley (Romania), Chris Robison (Togo), Nick Gervasi (Cape Verde), Laurel Saito (Philippines), Astrid Vinje with husband Clint and kids (Togo), Karol Dixon (Nicaragua) .

1. Following a half hour of potluck dining and socializing, Joana called the business meeting to order at 2:35. Each participant introduced themselves, their Peace Corps service country and years of service.
2. As required by law, the minutes of the previous meeting were moved, seconded and approved by voice vote of the Board.
3. Joana briefly reviewed the history and purpose of SEAPAX and called attention to the draft 2013 Organizational Report and Financial Report, 6 copies of which had been distributed to the various tables in the room. She noted that as the Registered Agent of SEAPAX she has filed the required annual reporting documents to fulfill our duties as a non-profit corporation and a registered small charity. When finalized, the 2013 Organizational Report will be available through the SEAPAX website.
4. 2014 Events Scheduling
 - a. Upcoming Peace Corps week (Feb 23 – March 1) and month (March) were discussed. The local PC recruiting regional office (RRO) is not planning any events and Peace Corps is encouraging individuals to reach out on their own to share their experiences. Week-long events will be held on the University of Washington -Seattle campus, but recruiter does not

currently need any help for their activities. The RRO lead recruiter did however, request help for the Nomination Party which occurs in May. Dates for that event are May 14 or 15.

b. The Village Bicycle Project has agreed to do a program March 1. They will inform us of the time and location and details.

c. The date for the annual Holiday Party was set for December 6.

d. The Western Regional Campout will be August 14 – 17., for which SEAPAX is host. Scott reported on plans for the Regional Campout. Space at Cougar Rock Campground at Mount Rainier has been reserved. Scott noted that the RPCV groups in the western region have been having these campouts for 22+ years.

5. Shahida requested suggestions for Eats Out or pub night locations.

6. Jessica Mathews, the new Service Chair, was unable to be at the meeting. She is looking for organizations that could benefit from SEAPAX participation. Involvement in the annual SeattleWorks day of service was suggested.

7. Deborah offered to look for schools and organizations who would like speakers from SEAPAX.

8. Program and business meetings

a. Leadership group completed a Doodle poll to choose dates for 2014. * indicates a planned program meeting. Dates chosen were:

Feb 16,	July 20, 2 nd choice July 27*
March 16*	Sept. 14, 2 nd choice Sept. 28
April 6, 2 nd choice Sat. April 5	Oct. 18*
May 18, 2 nd choice May 29*	Nov. 16
June 29	Dec. 7*

b. There is need to contact the three groups who received grants from SEAPAX in 2013, One World Now!, Open Doors for Multicultural Families, and Solid Ground, as well as the YMCA Young Adult Services who were the recipient of holiday donation. Joana would like to schedule for March program meeting. Laurel Saito offered to contact them to discuss presentations to SEAPAX.; Joana will coordinate with Laurel.

9. Joana noted a number of vacancies in leadership positions at SEAPAX and tasks which need attention.

a. A Grants Chair is needed. No applications for grants are currently being accepted.

b. A SEAPAX Leadership manual has been begun by Joana and Lillian Baer however much work needs to be done to complete it.

c. NPCA encourages a mentoring program for newly returned volunteers but participating has proved difficult to manage. Joana suggested perhaps we could provide networking opportunities as an alternative. James Hong (RPCV Cambodia, not at meeting today) and Laurel offered to assist with planning, as the NGO where they work offers such a program. Kate and Marta offered to work on setting up networking events.

d. The Vice President position is vacant.

10. Other service and social suggestions include :

- Daytime hikes on Cougar Mountain, led by Jean Lanz and her dog , on 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month
- viewing foreign films from PC countries/regions presented at the Seattle International Film Festival.
- A contra dancing event was also suggested, like Seattle RPCV group used to hold. Chris offered to look into this.

11. Astrid told about her Corps Conversations podcasts which features interviews from RPCVs. 20 episodes are available on Itunes. She spoke of some ideas she has for special programs focusing on writers or topics such as environment or health.

Astrid also mentioned the documentary movie “27 Months”, about the Peace Corps experience. She suggested that we might use a showing of the movie as a special program or fund raiser. The movie is not yet released, although a trailer is available for viewing through YouTube. She will continue to gather information on costs and availability to discuss at a later time.

12. The group divided into two break-out sessions to discuss topics in detail. Scott led one group discussing the regional campout. The other group focused on program and service ideas for the upcoming year.

The meeting broke up about 4:30.

Respectfully submitted

Dina Davis, SEAPAX Secretary