



SEAPAX

BRINGING THE WORLD HOME

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SEAPAX Board Meeting Minutes, May 7, 2013, at the home of Carey Homan

Present: Simone LaPray, Lillian Baer, Carey Homan, Shahida Shahrir, Jaron Reed, Scott Ramos, Dina Davis. Absent: Joana Ramos

- 1. Opening:** Simone called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm and handed out copies of the meeting agenda.
- 2. Budget:** There was no report on budget. Simone said that there were no changes.
- 3. Networking cards:** Simone distributed business-card sized networking cards with SEAPAX contact information. Board members can use them to promote SEAPAX by providing an easy, professional way of exchanging contact information with interested parties.
- 4. Grants:** Simone reported that the Grant Committee is planning to solicit nominations for small (\$50 - \$150) grants to local organizations in June with the goal of promoting good will and visibility in the community. At this time, special consideration will be given to local non-profits nominated by RPCVs or where RPCVs currently work or volunteer that will also provide volunteer opportunities for SEAPAX.. **Simone will write up an article for the newsletter describing our grant program and how we can offer small grants to local non-profits.** Special emphasis will be on volunteer service opportunities for SEAPAX members and there is still granting opportunities within the Peace Corps Partnership Program; however, we would like to support "*the third goal*" and have more impact locally.
- 5. Membership:** Dina opened a discussion about how the membership lists work. **Dina will meet with Scott** to discuss the current system. Jaron will join the Membership Committee which currently includes Dina Davis, Temma Pistang and Lori Espy. **Dina volunteered to enter new memberships which are not received digitally into the database. Carey will forward membership forms electronically to Dina.**

Dina and Scott will work together to update the MailChimp database used and revise the old Excel database. The goal is to end up with a more workable model for maintaining the membership list and keep track of the information generated by membership needs.

Dina will contact Aileen to get the original document of the trifold SEAPAX brochure to update the logo and information.

Dina presented a “Welcome to SEAPAX” document which would be distributed digitally to new members. **She will send out an electronic copy to the Board** for comments.

Jaron presented a proposal for using project funding selection as an incentive in a membership drive. The document is copied as follows:

Membership Drive Outline Document

OBJECTIVE: Increase SEAPAX membership while simultaneously promoting activities of SEAPAX.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Identify 2-3 current PCV projects; gather photos, description, PCV contact information
- 2) Define membership drive period (2 weeks, one month?);
3. Set-up membership drive sister webpage via SEAPAX webpage for selected projects enabled with PayPal link to SEAPAX account in order to facilitate donation;
- 4) Promote membership drive via e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- 5) All proceeds to PCV projects will be accepted in lieu of membership fee during drive period.
- 6) Submit informal write-up of membership drive consisting of: 1) Number of new memberships created during drive; 2) Feedback from PCVs and SEAPAX board members.

The board still feels that we need a Social Media Coordinator needed to keep the various social platforms up to date.

6. Mentoring: Lillian is transitioning to coordinating the mentoring duties with Catherine. She will reach out to SEAPAX members as there is a need for more mentors; currently there are about six who have offered to participate.

7. Expense reimbursements: It was agreed that reimbursement for expenses should include a paper trail with sign off by a Board member and receipts. **Carey will forward Dina an example** to create a SEAPAX form to save in our Box.com account.

8. Endorsements: Jaron opened a discussion on whether SEAPAX should consider endorsing political issues or candidates. It was agreed that it is not appropriate for SEAPAX to endorse causes or candidates of a political nature. No restrictions apply to individuals and SEAPAX could provide a forum for candidates or issue discussion.

9. Events: Shahida reported on the One World Now program. Three RPCVs interacted with the high school members of OWN. OWN expressed an interest in continuing collaboration with RPCVs to enhance their program .

Several RPCVs have volunteered to be on the list for the Speaker's Bureau. **Dina will write an article for the newsletter (with Shahida's review) to make the community aware of the Speaker's Bureau resource.**

May events include:the UW PC Nomination (potluck) Event on May 16 and the Potluck & Garden Party on May 18. Also being publicized through SEAPAX media is the Islamic Awareness Week on the UW campus.

We are also looking for an EatsOut event for June, and would like to identify a restaurant that represents a country where SEAPAX members have served.

Aileen has secured a Seward Park site for the July 13 SEAPAX Picnic. The same SEAPAX allotment of \$100,as was provided last year, shall be allocated to provide the hamburgers and veggie burgers for the picnic with salads and sides provided potluck. Any non-perishable food and supplies purchased will be used at the SEAPAX Campout.

The SEAPAX Campout at Kanaskat-Palmer State Park is scheduled for August 23 -25. A hard copy of the email confirmation of the reservation was distributed. In past years SEAPAX has subsidized the cost of the campsite with members attending paying a \$10 per person charge for the 2 nights of the campout. This year's venue is more expensive than previous sites and so a \$20 per person charge is suggested. **Aileen, who did such a good job in the past, will be asked if she will again be willing to coordinate the campout including accepting RSVPs.**

The Regional Campout is being organized by the Idaho RPCV group and will be held at Farragut State Park in Athol, Idaho August 1 – 4. Currently only a couple of SEAPAX members have committed to going. SEAPAX is being asked to do the breakfast one morning for the group, and usually needs about ten people to prepare.

Next year SEAPAX will be in charge of organizing the 2014 Regional Campout. Scott pointed out that it is a big job to coordinate the event and difficult to find an appropriate venue with sufficient campsite space, as it is a well-attended activity. A committee will be formed soon to begin the process. **Scott offered to be on the committee and has offered to write an article for the newsletter soliciting volunteers and ideas.**

10. Fundraising: The board reiterated that no new fundraising initiatives will be proposed in addition to the calendar sales. Jennifer will not be coordinating calendar sales this year; we are looking for a new coordinator.. 2014 calendars should be available in July to be sold at SEAPAX

events such as the picnic, campouts and Book Club meetings. If calendars are available, Jaron agreed to take SEAPAX calendars to the SEAPAX picnic and we will reach out to Marilee to see if she would be able to manage the sale of calendars at Book Club meetings.

11. Newsletter: Shahida agreed to be the next “Focus on an RPCV”. **Dina will send her a questionnaire. Simone offered to print a few copies of the May newsletter to distribute at the May 18 Garden Party.**

12. Bylaws Working Group: Joana has offered to take the lead in reviewing and updating the SEAPAX by laws. Lillian will join the committee. **Joana will send out an email regarding changes to the Bylaws.**

13. Members of the board repeated how pleased they (and probably the members, as well) are with the newsletter, timeliness, professionalism, content and solicitation of member contributions. Thanks were offered again to Dina.

The next Board meeting will be June 30, 1pm – 3pm at the Northeast Seattle Public Library, 6801 35th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Davis
SEAPAX Secretary