

SEAPAX Board Meeting
September 13, 2009
DRAFT MINUTES
Greenlake Public Library, 2:30-4:30 pm

Members present: Hilary, Joana, Matt, Stacey

A nasty virus making the rounds of Seattle kept attendance down, along with car trouble and travel of other members.

We began with a recap of our summer events, with the following recommendations for next year:

- **Picnic**–: try switching to a Saturday, chose different location so that we can have a shelter to ourselves. Magnuson Park, near the beach was indicated as a preferred location. Seattle Parks Dept. lottery system & timeline for picnic sites was reviewed.
- **Campout**: everyone felt that the was a great success, and the weather cooperated too. Photos are now posted on the SEAPAX Facebook page. The only “glitch” was a bit humorous, as we learned that quantities given in recipes for feeding crowds may not be accurate. The taco bar menu was a hit. We were pleasantly surprised to learn of the small satellite group that has sprung up in Wenatchee through the efforts of Gus Bekker, and look forward to more communications with them.
- **Group leaders’ meeting at campout**: Joe Hindman facilitated the meeting, which included representatives of the Portland, Eugene, Spokane, and Idaho groups, as well as Joana and Stacey from SEAPAX. Reps of the various groups shared highlights of their activities in the past year. In addition to their social gatherings, the former 4 groups participate yearly in specific events and/or service projects, such as community festivals, international focus events, public radio fundraisers, and food bank prep work. SEAPAX is still in capacity-building mode, and was pleased to report that a dozen of our members had volunteered for the WA Refugee & Immigrant Conference in March. Also, we have developed a good working relationship the Seattle PC RRO since the new director came on board, and we are now planning several joint events in the fall. The initial meeting by Joana with Eileen Conoboy resulted in an invitation to the SEAPAX Board to meet with the RRO staff. The Portland group also shared some useful info on some governance and documentations changes they have made to streamline their work. Joe shared info on the NPCA Board meeting he attended in late June, with the following highlights:
 - Big news is confirmation of Aaron Williams, Pres.Obama’s appointee. as new PC Director. Aaron is an RPCV (Dominican Republic ’67-’70), minority recruiter for PC, NPCA Board member, who has worked in international development for government & private sectors.
 - For the first time in years, NPCA is in the black financially, although bulk of current funding is from grants
 - NPCA got a \$400k grant from the Gates Foundation to develop the Africa Rural connect program & website. ARC aims to improve farming techniques & output in rural sub-Saharan Africa via a contest, which gives cash prizes for novel ideas that can be

implemented on the continent. Target audience is Africa RPCVs and members of African Diaspora in the global North.

- The most significant topic discussed was the idea (plan?) presented by Kevin Quigley for the NPCA to cease being a membership organization and instead operate as an alumni group, with all RPCVs as members. Membership has been steadily declining, with now only some 5000 paid NPCA members. Timeline for this to happen is not certain, and would need Board approval.
- Not clear yet what plans are for 50th PC Anniversary, except to for some ideas posted on GLF page of Connected PC. NPCA may be in role of facilitator, not hold own events. Most events may be from PC, and by initiative of RPCV groups. There will be a big celebration in DC in late Sept. 2011. Anne Baker of NPCA is advising making hotel reservations now.

Various people discussed ongoing issues for their groups with the NPCA, such as timely recording and disbursement of dues received; poor follow up with new RCPVs requesting local group contacts; perceived lack of transparency on NPCA operations, financial specifics, and track record of engagement with groups, etc.

- Feedback/changes for 2010 work plan?

Reports from Chairs:

- Treasurer: we'll await Aileen's return from NYC regarding:
 - Campout financial report
 - Current balance
- Membership: Brooke was among those on the sick list, so her report too will be forthcoming re:
 - Status report on membership numbers
 - NPCA data & payments
 - Making sure that each new RPCV that contacts us via email or our websites, will get a personal response
- Calendar sales: Jen Samnick sent a memo about planning this year's calendar sales
 - Using forms to report sales, which checks to go to Aileen
 - Assigning specific people to handle sales at our events
 - Online promos need to be posted
- Events
 - Aug. hike cancelled by weather; movie night
 - Sept. 22 PC Resources + pub night @ Spitfire
 - Sept. 26 SEAPAX group for AIDS Walk
 - Oct. 10 "Tell your PC Story"- location TBA
 - Oct. 25 Welcome Home Party will be at Sharon Hunter's house, 3:30-5:30 pm
 - Dec. 5 Holiday Party will be at Mike Fitch's house; Hilary will get final confirmation to post
 - Select community donation recipient
 - Recruit help
 - Do we want to have mini-fundraiser there, in addition to calendar sales?
- Grants
 - Status report on PCP requests funded from treasurer
 - Matt described requests awaiting approval, and is submitting the list to Board.

- Next Grants meeting will be on Oct. 20, linked to pub night. Location TBA
- Secretary/Listserv
 - Jessica asked that we discuss recent problem postings & comments made by former subscriber whose inappropriate messages were removed
 - Consensus of those present was that we do not need to change our list guidelines further. Offender in this instance did not choose option offered of taking up issue with the Board. We are restricting list to RPCVs, and this person was an RPCV, so will just handle on case-by-case basis, as we do with Facebook and CPC, as problems are rare.
- NPCA Updates
 - Will await any further updates from Paulette
- Programs
 - November: event &/or community service– Stacey is looking into opportunities from Seattle Works, these are not restricted by age (SW is a group to promote civic engagement among those 20–30 y.o. January–Feb.
 - Human Trafficking presentation for Jan? – Won't work out. We decided instead to have a meeting where SEAPAX members who have returned to their PC sites will share experiences
 - We might want to participate in the MLK Day of Service Jan. 18 (website <http://www.mlkday.gov/>). Joana will check to see if RRO is doing something we can join forces on
 - Other?
- **New Business**
 - SEAPAX program planning
 - Need to pick sites for Oct & Nov pub nights, Dec. too?
 - Eats Out brunch planned for Sunday Nov. 15 at 2 pm; need venue
 - Next Board meeting will be Nov. 15, to precede brunch
 - By-law revisions
 - Suggestions gleaned at Aug, regional meeting re: including term limits for officers, removing position “job descriptions,” which better fit in op manual
 - Joana will prepare the info needed for our March elections
 - SEAPAX capacity building
 - Ongoing need to get more active participation in SEAPAX
 - Discussed the natural opportunities at events
 - Regional group leaders' meeting will be held in Portland Jan–Feb '10, date TBA
 - Temma received a request, via Joanne Dufour, from a recently retired high school chemistry teacher, who is seeking to donate current teaching manuals, and wondered if SEAPAX would take this on. Would mean that SEAPAX would be responsible for finding venue to which to donate, and assume all logistics & costs. The teacher had heard of our past donation project with LA schools post–Katrina. Those present at the meeting decided that this would not be a viable project for our grants program, and recommended that the donor be directed to other NGOs that run direct book donation programs. These groups cover the shipping costs to final destination. Joana will send Temma a list of such groups, including

those which seek teacher materials. We will ask the rest of the Board for their opinions on this too.

- Other:
 - SEAPAX Campout 2010: need to make final decision if SEAPAX will have our campout next year. Those present were in favor, and Mat will contact Scott, start researching sites and put out call for planning group to membership. Reservations need to be made ASAP for prime sites for next summer. Will seek date of regional campout (will be in OR, hosted by Portland group), which will be announced in October.
 - Spam to seapax.org email addresses- Grant comm. Is getting a lot. Sugestions included forwarding grants mail to Gmail, which has stronger filters, trying to sue(at).seapax(dot)org format, to thwart bots