



**SEAPAX**

BRINGING THE WORLD HOME

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## **SEAPAX Board Meeting Minutes, Sunday, October 20, 2013, at the home of Dina & Arthur Davis**

Board members present: Lillian Baer, Carey Homan, Shahida Shahrir, Joana Ramos, Dina Davis.  
Absent: Jaron Reed, Paulette Thompson

Members and guests present: Scott Ramos, Kate Lawyer (Niger 2008-12), Daniel Poppe (China 2011-13), Marilee Fuller, Book Club chair (Turkey 1964-66), Erik Gonzalez (Dominica), Sala Sweet (Ghana), Shana Greene (Village Volunteers), Barbara Stahler (Country Director Dom. Rep, Cape Verde), Mark Hower (Sierra Leone mid 80's), Bonnie Scott (Future PCV), Stephanie Claeys and mother Amy (invited guests).

### **1. Opening & Updates:** Joana called the meeting to order at about 3:15pm

A message from Simone LaPray was read. Additional responsibilities in her academic life make it impossible for her to continue as communications chair. We thank Simone for her service and wish her well.

Paulette Thompson, our Western Region NPCA representative sent a message that she will communicate the results of the recent NPCA teleconference to the Board.

Lillian reported on recent contacts with iLeap, a local non-profit providing leadership training for young adults primarily from Latin America and Asia. SEAPAX may be able to trade opportunities to promote iLeap's mission for occasional use of their meeting facility at Good Shepherd Center.

Newsletter: Dina reminded the group that newsletter articles are always welcome. The deadline for submittal is the last Monday of the current month for the newsletter published the first Monday of each month. Shahida said she had not received her October newsletter. Dina noted that, for unknown reasons, the October edition has an open rate of about 21% compared with previous recent months where the open rate has been above 32%.

Financial Report : Carey distributed a print out of the current SEAPAX financials. The Balance Sheet showed total liabilities & equities as of October 18, 2013 to be \$13,225.03

Calendar sales: Carey reported that only about 10 calendars are not spoken for. To provide for sales at the holiday party and other upcoming events Carey was authorized to purchase another carton of 50 calendars. She asked that each Board member commit to selling at least 4 calendars to ensure that we do not have a large number left over at the end of the year.

Book Club: Marilee reported that she is looking for suggestions for books for the 2014 year. She requested technical help from Scott to ensure communications for the SEAPAX International Book Club.

**2. Revision of Bylaws** Joana reported that the revised Bylaws were posted for member review on October 15, 2013. An e-mailing was sent out to the membership with links to both the existing and revised bylaws. Voting will take place electronically between Nov 15 -30. Joana summarized the major changes to the bylaws: changing the SEAPAX fiscal year to the calendar year; clarification of duties and rights of the Board and membership; moving the Membership Chair from an elected Board position to an appointed position; and changes in the mechanics of making changes to the Bylaws. All members were urged to review the complete texts.

**3. 2013 Grants** Accumulated grants funds to be dispersed total \$2900. It was moved, seconded and voted to add \$100 from the General Fund to allow 3 \$1000 donations to be made. At a previous Board meeting a list of local charities was distributed. With that list and some others suggested by members, Board members were asked by email to choose up to 10 that they would like to support. Joana and Carey researched the many organizations and recommended 3 as best meeting the goals. The selection criteria was 1) community-based organizations serving local vulnerable populations/meeting basic needs; 2) groups that would most benefit from our donation; 3) record of financial stability. The three organizations which are chosen are One World Now!, Open Doors for Multicultural Families, and Apple Corps, a branch of Solid Ground. After discussion, it was moved, seconded and voted to approve these three organizations for grants of \$1000 each. Money will be distributed before the end of the year.

#### **4. Upcoming Events**

Tuesday, November 12, 6-8:30 SEAPAX will have a general meeting highlighting the Affordable Care Act. The meeting will be open to all members and held at the iLeap facility at the Good Shepherd Center in Wallingford.

Saturday, December 7 is planned for the SEAPAX Annual Holiday Party. No venue has yet been determined. Joana will send out a request to the general membership seeking venues.

Additional events and plans for 2014 will be discussed via email communications.

## **5. Governance**

A Board meeting is needed to discuss transitions. Lillian will not be continuing as VP after the end of 2013 and Jaron Reed is stepping down as an At Large Director. Joana proposed a Board meeting before the November 12 General Meeting. Sunday, November 10 was suggested. Confirmation of the date, time and location will be conducted via emails.

Current SEAPAX needs include establishing a Program Committee , and Coordinators for Communications and Membership.. Shahida said that she is willing to take over posting of events on all platforms for now.

**6. Regional RPCV Campout** Scott reported that he has reserved a group campground, Cougar Rock in Mount Rainier, for Aug. 14-17. It is still possible to change the location if a better site is found, so please contact Scott with recommendations. It is SEAPAX's turn to host this annual event.

The business meeting was adjourned and after a break, the group enjoyed presentations by Stephanie Claeys on her project Iris Athletics to bring athletic equipment to youths in Dominica and Barbara Stahler who discussed developing local crafts and craft marketing through NGO capacity building, drawing from her experiences in Paraguay, Honduras, .

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Davis  
SEAPAX Secretary