

Minutes of the September 28, 2014 WCPCA Board meeting at the home of Dorothy Soper, convened at 6 p.m.

PRESENT: Julia Harvey, President; Gary Cornelius, Secretary; Dorothy Soper; James Cloutier; Denise Silfee; Juliet Bender; Laurette Garner

- 1) Laurette (UO PC recruiter) reported on the developing changes in the Peace Corps application process. There will be more opportunity for applying potential volunteers to pick their country of service and indicate what assignment they want provided “they have the resume to back it up.” The revamped PC website will give potential volunteers the number of openings in the area they’ve chosen, along w/details like deadlines. The new health screening process will enable the medical screeners in D.C. to tell you what countries you are qualified medically to serve in. Another change is that interviews will be done by D.C. via Skype or phone, instead of in one’s city or region. The streamlined process should take a few months, instead of more than a year as it has been. The updated website w/be able to tell applicants current info about country/sites/ programs or projects availability, etc. . . . It’s suggested there be a brief presentation about these changes at the upcoming Oct. 24th potluck for the benefit of the membership.
- 2) Laurette also is seeking volunteers to help man (or woman) the PC booth at the upcoming annual UO Street Faire Oct. 15-17. Dorothy will send an email to the membership and include it in the Oct. newsletter. . . . There was also brief discussion about the fellowship programs available to UO students and there seemed to be consensus there are not as many available at UO as at many other universities.
- 3) Gary reported sale of about 35 2015 PC calendars so far, resulting in bank deposits totaling \$385.70. We started w/125 calendars. Ten calendars were sold to the UO Duck Store for the first time. James suggested pursuing a connection for calendar sales with Food for Lane County, since we have a long established relationship w/FFLC thru our regular volunteer work for them. Such an arrangement could benefit both of us. There was consensus this is worth exploring further. . . . calendars are sold at WCPCA functions and online.
- 4) Financial discussion Bart recently announced, in an email to the rest of the board, that he is would like to stop being treasurer at the end of 2014. The checking account balance is described as pretty low, in part because the majority of membership renewals for the year have not come in yet, but are due by 1/1/15. If most renew, that will significantly increase the balance. Dorothy also points out that the extensive work by

NetCorps during the past year to update and modernize our data base and address IT issues cost \$1,000-plus, an expense that won't occur henceforth. We also hosted the annual NW regional meeting of RPCV chapters this year, an expense we won't soon have again. . . Dorothy announced a \$200 donation to the principal of the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund, thru Oregon Community Foundation, by Michael Mooser; and Gary announced he is donating \$161 to WCPCA for PCV projects, which represents a portion of the proceeds from the sale of his book, "Dancing with Gogos: A Peace Corp Memoir," about his service in South Africa. The money will be deposited on October 1, 2014. **A vote to accept the budget report is delayed since it needs to be updated first. It will be voted upon at the next board meeting. *There is a motion, approved unanimously, to direct the treasurer to deposit the December 2014 distribution from the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund to the account for general operating funds to reimburse it -- since we used general funds to support projects in 2014. The amount in question is expected to be about \$650.***

- 5) Discussion about new PCV project funding support requests -- Two funding requests have been received, one from Nicaragua for an ultrasound machine for a clinic where pregnant mothers are treated (includes a "voltage stabilizer" and training for 85 people), approximately \$6,000 total needed; and one from a volunteer in Madagascar who is seeking help with an eco-tourism project to improve "basic amenities" to attract researchers and tourists to a remote area known for its small population of rare lemurs. About \$3,183 is needed. Both projects involve Oregon PCVs. The board has questions about both projects and there is consensus that we should gather more information before deciding whether to support either or both. ***James will check further about the Nicaragua project***, our main question being if there are other sources of potential funding, since a lot is needed and we could supply only a small portion of it. RE: the Madagascar project we note the volunteer has only eight months of his service remaining, which might not be long enough to finish, and we wonder about sustainability. That is, would/could another volunteer pick it up, or is there a local counterpart who could see it through. ***Gary will gather more information about this.***
- 6) Discussion about the membership form. We need to have a form that asks couples to enter their names and contact data and PC service data (if both were PCVs) in different spaces, but on a single form. This would simplify the joining and renewal tasks for couples, who can then click on the box that indicates family membership. Dorothy will work with Jennifer, membership coordinator, to design a fix. Dorothy believes NetCorps help/expertise can be acquired for about \$100 and she proposes to pay for it and asks us to consider it a donation to WCPCA. We will also remove from the current form the question asking who a person would like to be linked to in the membership directory.

Everyone will be listed separately, which will make doing the membership directory easier. ***Motion to proceed passes unanimously.***

- 7) It's time to think about board membership for 2015. Gary Cornelius, Julia Harvey, James Cloutier, Denise Silfee, Juliette Bender, and Laurette Garner agree to continue on the board, but Jennifer Knowles, membership coordinator, reportedly does not wish to continue. Bart Briefstein, treasurer, does not wish to continue as treasurer. In addition, Juliette does not wish to continue as program chair.

PLAN: We will put out an appeal at the October 24th potluck at Dorothy's home; we will ask members Jack Meacham and Wayne Thompson to serve as a nominating committee; all board members will give thought to possible candidates that could be approached; and after the potluck – early November, or so – Dorothy will organize an “interest meeting” to explain the range of board responsibilities to those who are willing to consider serving, so they will know what to expect. Several names were discussed tonight; newer members who have expressed an interest in being more active.

- 8) Juliette listed all the activities or events we've done the past few months: the “nom” party, two potlucks, volunteering at Food for Lane County several times, and Ninkasi Night, which was organized via the Facebook page, but poorly (pourly?) attended. Two more potlucks are planned: the 10/24 event at Dorothy's that will include a piano performance, and December 5th, site to be determined. . . . Other miscellaneous items: we will ask the membership on Oct. 24th to vote on proposed by-law changes all have had 3 months to review and ask questions about; we were represented on a letter to President Obama, organized by NPCA, seeking an adequate budget for Peace Corps; and Dorothy will do an annual report for the newsletter, which also serves as a record of our activities. This would also include revising the description of the business framework. Dorothy says she would welcome contributions or suggestions to the description of the business framework, and is open to someone else taking the lead on this project.

- 9) **Next meeting:** Sunday, November 23, 2014, 6 p.m. at Dorothy's.

- 10) Meeting adjourned about 8:30 p.m.

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES TO CLARIFY BUDGET STATUS:

Email from Dorothy Soper to Board:

. . . I heard from four of you with approvals for the treasurer's report as Bart submitted it for the meeting. With my vote that's five and the motion passed. I'll include the balance in various

accounts in the business summary section of the newsletter. Sorry for my error that required us to vote this way.

Gary, would you please include in the minutes in some way information about this decision and that we made it via email today? Thanks very much. . . . Dorothy . . . October 1, 2014

Minutes by Gary Cornelius, Secretary, completed 9/30/14 (with above email/addendum added 10/1/14 before distribution).