



Board Meeting

Saturday, September 10, 2016

Hosted by Meredith Vostrejs at her home

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Palo Alto, CA

Present:

In Person: Jane Ferguson Flout, Tara Trepanier Gill, Lie Njie, Jacqueline Sloves, Meredith Vostrejs

Via Conference Call: Nichole Clark, Ella Dowell, Dorothy Herzberg, Amy Ross

Absent: Glenn Anaiscourt, Vern Philips, Terry Vogt, Justina Wu

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am

Approval of June and July minutes

Tara Trepanier Gill moved to approve the June and July 2016 minutes. The motion was second by Meredith Vostrejs and approved unanimously by the board.

Announcements

- Launch of Silkstart

Ella Dowell was acknowledged and thanked by the board for all the long hours she has spent getting Silkstart up and running for the soft launch of NorCalPCA's new website. All board members and chairs received an email to set up their accounts and log in to test functions and spot typos before the hard launch of the website to all members on Thursday, Sept 15. Send feedback to webmaster@NorCalPCA.org

There are three parts of the website: the front page; the membership database; and the portal that lets members post their own events. All board members can post official NorCalPCA events. The goal is to provide easy access and encourage members to feel that this is their website.

- Upcoming Peace Corps Connect Conference

The upcoming Peace Corps Connect Conference is in two weeks away and NorCalPCA has three free tickets to cover the cost of registration for the conference but is not able to provide reimbursements for lodging. One ticket will be given to a NorCalPCA member who has expressed interest. Lie Njie will attend the conference to encourage interconnection between NPCA affiliate groups; and Tara Trepanier Gill, and Meredith Vostrejs also plan to

represent NorCalPCA at the conference. Meredith expressed thanks that NPCA credited her and Tara for their cost of registration with the other two free tickets that had not been used.

- New Book by Board Member

Dorothy Herzberg has published a new book about people and projects that board members encouraged her to share on the NorCalPCA website, Facebook page, and newsletter; and to post an event on the website for RPCVs to meet and talk with Dorothy about the book at a coffee shop, perhaps during November which is National Novel Writing Month.

- Upcoming Commonwealth Club/NorCalPCA Event

NorCalPCA President Lie Njie will moderate the Commonwealth Club's upcoming evening event September 15, 2016 featuring Carrie Hessler-Radelet, Director , U.S. Peace Corps Karl W. Eikenberry, Ambassador; William J. Perry Fellow in International Security, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University. The focus of the evening, entitled "Let It Begin Here: Peace Corps and Problem-Solving at the Last Mile" will unpack the power of relationships in international development.

Board Ground Rules

Jane Ferguson Flout suggested that each board meeting begin with a reading of the board ground-rules that were established at the March 2016 offsite board meeting and retreat.

The ground rules set the tone for our engagement with each other:

1. Listen closely, respectfully and constructively to each other.
2. Let people finish what they are saying before jumping in to speak.
3. Seek clarification and disagree respectfully.
4. Encourage everyone to participate – make sure we hear from everyone.
5. Each board member is responsible for the group and the group process – everyone is empowered to speak up to ensure the ground-rules are being followed.

Action

A motion was made by Jane to read the board ground rules at the beginning of each board meeting. The motion was seconded by Meredith Vostrejs and Tara Trepanier Gill, and unanimously approved unanimously by the board.

Speakers Match

Meredith Vostrejs has volunteered to respond to requests that come in for NorCalPCA Speakers Match program until an ongoing volunteer is identified to coordinate the program. The program has been renamed Speakers Match (formerly it was the Global Presenters Program) to align with national Peace Corps Speakers Match program with which NorCalPCA is now collaborating to match speakers with schools, community and business groups. Peace Corps Speakers Match provides speakers with training and schools with curriculum resources.

Meredith plans to meet with the national Speakers Match team when she goes to Peace Corps Connect in Washington DC to learn more about how the program works. She has had two requests – one from an elementary school and one from a high school. Both expressed their interest in having young, enthusiastic, recently returned RPCVs speak to their classes. Jacqueline Sloves observed the Speakers Match program is a great opportunity to leverage NorCalPCA's members who are young professionals, and remembers the impact her own talk had on a high school student who had never heard of Peace Corps and now plans to become a Peace Corps Volunteer. Board members agreed that RPCVs of all ages have proven to be valuable speakers. Communications sent to speaker@NorcalPCA.org is received by Meredith.

Inclusive NorCalPCA Gatherings

In reference to a recent farewell event, board members discussed the importance going forward of having inclusive NorCalPCA events in which individual members are not excluded from attending.

Review of August Financial Position

NorCalPCA Board Treasurer Tara Trepanier Gill gave a report of the organization's financial position as of August 2016:

NorCalPCA's total financial position of \$52,670.09 is comprised of:

- Restricted Grants: \$10,829
- Fidelity Legacy Funds: \$37,433
- Remaining Unrestricted Funds: \$4,408.09

Tara noted that there is the capacity to expand the list of restricted funds in the future when members specify they want to restrict their donation to potential activities as Advocacy or Speakers Match or Storytelling or Volunteer Work. Lie Njie expressed his appreciation to Tara for the amazing job she has done in organizing the finances.

Legacy Investment Fund Recommendation

Tara Trepanier Gill reported that NorCalPCA's Legacy Fund is \$37,000. This fund dates back to Peace Corps Connect in Berkeley 20 years ago when the event made money and a decision was made to invest the funds. After 20 years, the funds matured. The intention was always that current and future boards not squander these funds but to spend them prudently. Tara has been working on a NorCalPCA committee headed by board member and investment banker Terry Vogt, who has recommended a diversified approach for multiple investments of the Legacy Fund. The diversified approach will include the following investments in mutual funds:

\$7,500 NPCA Microenterprise Fund (Calvert) (helps microfinancing around world)

\$7,500 S&P 500 Growth Fund (Schwab)

\$7,500 Global Bond Fund (Schwab)

\$7,500 Small Cap Value Fund (Schwab)

The remaining funds will be left in NorCalPCA's bank account and carried over to support sustainable and strategic FY17 programming.

It is anticipated that the investment strategy will yield a return of between 5%-15% every year (about \$3,000 every year). In 10 years that would mean NorCalPCA will have doubled the money and still have \$30,000 in principal.

Discussion

The board noted that it would be worthwhile to write up a history of the Legacy Fund to share with NorCalPCA members. Ella Dowell and Tara Trepanier Gill will work on the history together. It was also noted that Terry Vogt agreed to regularly oversee the Legacy Fund investments.

Action

Meredith Vostrejs moved to approve the investment strategy for the Legacy Fund. Lie Njie seconded the motion with unanimous approval by the board.

Review of FY17 Budget

Tara Trepanier Gill led the board line by line through the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget starting with revenues and moving to expenses. The process entailed the board agreeing on the totals line by line for revenues and expenses.

Discussion

Productive and engaged discussion ensued for each line item.

Action

Lie Njie moved to approve the totals line by line for revenues and expenses in the FY2017 budget. Jacqueline Sloves seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the board.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting shortly after noon by Jacqueline Sloves, and seconded by Tara Trepanier Gill.