



Board Meeting

December 10, 2016

Hosted by Terry Vogt at his house in San Francisco

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Lunch

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Board Meeting

Present:

In Person: Glenn Anaiscourt, Noah Brod, Nichole Clark, Jane Ferguson Flout, Lie Njie, Terry Vogt

Via Conference Call: Ella Dowell, Jacqueline Sloves

Absent: Dorothy Herzberg, Vern Philips, Amy Ross, Meredith Vostrejs

Guest: Isaac Pearlman

Isaac Pearlman, who is interested in joining the NorCalPCA board, joined us to meet board members and learn more about NorCalPCA. Isaac is an RPCV (Peru 2005-2007) and also has served as a protected area biologist for Peace Corps Response in the Philippines. His specialties in environmental and natural resource management include sea level rise, fisheries and marine conservation, climate adaptation planning, general environmental research and writing. He enjoys making homebrew beer.

Social Component:

Terry provided lunch consisting of homemade Brazilian feijoada.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Glenn Anaiscourt moved to approve the October 2016 board minutes. The motion was seconded by Noah Brod and approved unanimously by the board.

Terry Vogt moved to approve the November 2016 board minutes. The motion was seconded by Glenn Anaiscourt and approved unanimously by the board.

Welcome and General Updates

Welcome: Lie Njie welcomed Isaac Pearlman to the meeting and thanked board members for all the great work that has been done in the past year resulting in quorum at every meeting; healthy internal and external systems including improved financial, budgeting and accounting practices; and a new website – with a special thanks to Ella Dowell for all the hours she has spent getting the new website launched.

NorCalPCA Response to Election Results: NorCalPCA waited until after the Thanksgiving holiday to issue a response on the national election results, drafted by Vern Philips. We have gotten only positive

feedback to the response and even received some donations from individuals who became NorCalPCA members or upgraded their membership as a result of the communication.

P.O. Box: Lie Njie said he has picked up the mail at the NorCalPCA P.O. Box and has handled outstanding issues including updating our contacts with the Embarcadero Post Office.

Funding Camping Trip: NorCalPCA member Sarah Stever decided to fund a camping trip in June using her own source of funding when she learned that in order to receive NorCalPCA funding support, the event would need to be limited to NorCalPCA members. Sarah will still be able to post on NorCalPCA's website the camping trip as a private event for those interested. Board members discussed the need to further refine the criteria for NorCalPCA sponsored and funded events including the cost of insurance coverage and whether to provide advance deposits that will then be reimbursed.

Thanksgiving Dinner: The Annual Recently Returned Thanksgiving on November 19, 2016 attracted more than 25 RPCVs for a day of socializing and networking over a traditional, home-cooked Thanksgiving meal at the home of NorCalPCA members Paul Reinhart and Susan Sumner in Mountain View. Board president Lie Njie, who helped organize the event, remarked that fellow board member Noah Brod did an outstanding job facilitating discussion and came prepared with supplies and games. Noah remembers how important this event was for him when he was a recently returned volunteer to get connected to a community and build relationships with other RPCVs with similar experiences and not feel alone.

Need for Volunteers

The board discussed the need to attract volunteers to help organize and host events since it is not scalable for board members to do all the work for events. The board agreed it would be helpful over the next six months to define volunteer opportunities that Ella Dowell will post on the NorCalPCA website along with a kit to be developed for each event consisting of a one-page document describing the parameters of that particular event. When members step forward to volunteer to help host events, a system will be developed to send a thank you to each volunteer and ask them to let us know how the event went, and if there needs to be any follow-up.

Silkstart Update

Ella Dowell reported that 63 new members have signed up in addition to 500 members who have logged in since the new NorCalPCA website launched on September 16, 2016. The new tiered membership system allows free membership with the option to upgrade to the \$20, \$50, \$125, \$500, or \$1,000 annual membership levels. The majority of our memberships are at the free, basic membership level.

Through the new website we have received 50 contributions without a lot of marketing and push totaling \$2,882 which includes \$681 in calendar sales (benefiting NorCalPCA's Grants program), and \$2,201 in donations for membership upgrades and general funds. We have obtained the same level of active membership that we had last year in the first three months since the new system launched. Board members recommended that there be an opportunity at the Annual General Meeting and Festival of Cultures on January 28 for people to sign up to become members of NorCalPCA.

NorCalPCA is an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Associate (NPCA). To become a member of NorCalPCA one first needs to sign up for a membership with NPCA for free, and then choose NorCalPCA as an affiliate, with the option to upgrade the membership level. NorCalPCA and NPCA essentially share

the same website but have two facades. This is an advantage for NorCalPCA because it allows us to network with NPCA's 158 affiliates nationwide.

Board Elections

An announcement will be sent out in the next week about NorCalPCA board elections including what it means to serve on the board and a call to action to run for an open position. The nomination process ends January 6th. There are currently 10 open positions on the board with two-year terms and the option to apply for regional or at large positions.

Board members agreed it would be a good idea to invite board applicants to the next board meeting in order for us to get to know each other before the election takes place at the Annual General Meeting. Noah Brod volunteered to host the January board meeting at his home in Alameda on Sunday, January 8 at 2:00 PM. He will provide refreshments and snacks and if there's interest we can visit the nearby Alameda Island Brewing Company afterwards.

Newsletter Update

The monthly newsletters have been on hold until the new website is firmly established. Now that the website is up and running, we need to identify a communications volunteer to put out a monthly newsletter.

Member Spotlight RPCV

The board discussed having member spotlights of RPCVs that highlight (1) who you are; (2) where you served; (3) what you are doing now. Board members agreed this was a great idea and suggested we start with having current board members and incoming board members draft their profile and send to Ella Dowell to put on the website. All board profiles will be shared with current and incoming new board members to let them know the people they will be working with and serving alongside on the board.

Volunteer Appreciation

Jayma Brown, NorCalPCA's Volunteer Coordinator and former NorCalPCA president, updated her proposal to host a volunteer appreciation event in February as follows:

- The intent of the NorCalPCA Volunteer Recognition is to recognize dedicated and unselfish volunteer (unpaid) service to the organization;
- Two volunteers a year may be honored, one of them an "old timer" and the other a new volunteer with a stipulation that the same person is not honored again in future years.
- A bottle of wine will be presented to each honoree as an "award" (Jayma will provide the wine).

Financial Update

Terry Vogt, Board Treasurer, said the financial report for December is the same as the report reflected in the November 2016 board minutes. Meanwhile, the Grants Committee reported total income from calendar sales of \$2,424 less expenses of \$1,260 has resulted in profits of \$1,164 for NorCalPCA grants as of December 9, 2016.

Changes in Bylaws

Glen Anaiscourt presented to the board for review changes in the NorCalPCA bylaws that he and Pete Johnson drafted. Many of the changes pertained to organizational housekeeping and included requirements for individual membership; removal of a member; Board of Directors attendance

requirements for meetings; board vacancies; board member removal and resignation; greater flexibility in the timing of the Annual General Meeting; succession plan in the event of resignation or removal of the president or the vice president of the board; and rainy day reserves to protect annual budget.

Discussion: The board concurred with all the changes and praised Glenn Anaiscourt and Pete Johnson for their sensible additions to the bylaws as well as their investment of time in making the changes.

Action: Jane Ferguson Flout made a motion to accept the changes to the bylaws and share the changes with the NorCalPCA membership. The motion was seconded by Terry Vogt and approved unanimously by the board.

AGM Update

Glenn Anaiscourt updated the board that he has found a location for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Festival of Cultures on January 28 from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm at San Francisco Recreation and Park's Mission Pool and Playground Clubhouse at 19th Street and Linda Street in San Francisco's Mission District. Although parking will be a challenge, the venue is affordable (\$432 for six hours). No alcohol can be served at the location and we will need to cart out our trash. The plan is as follows:

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Set up

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm AGM

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Festival of Cultures

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm breakdown

The AGM and Festival of Cultures will follow the outline of Peace Corps Service with elements modeled after Peace Corps service: PST; Swearing-In; Training; and Posting. There is an option for a post-event bar crawl as well as renting out a hostel for those who wish to spend the night and have breakfast together the next morning.

Discussion: Glenn had called a lot of places to find a location in San Francisco and the Mission Pool and Playground Clubhouse was the best he found in terms of price and proximity to public transportation. The board expressed their appreciation for all of Glen's efforts and liked the location he had found. The suggestion was made to check out whether we needed to have insurance; and to consider other San Francisco venues in the future such as St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in Potrero Hill; and Most Holy Redeemer, a Catholic church in the Castro area.

Action: The board unanimously approved the location of the AGM and Festival of Cultures at Mission Pool and Playground Clubhouse at 19th Street and Linda Street in San Francisco.

Other Business

Board member Nichole Clarke announced to the board that she will be stepping down from the board at the end of her upcoming two-year term. Board members expressed their sorrow to see her go and their

appreciation for her valuable service to NorCalPCA. Nichole shared that it had been challenging this past year to attend board meetings because the date and location of the meetings were not announced with enough advance notice. She suggested that at NorCalPCA's annual board retreat, board members each select the month and date they will be hosting a meeting so the board meeting schedule will be set for the year. Board members agreed that it would be helpful to announce next year's meetings with greater lead time. Nichole also noted that NorCalPCA North Bay Region wants to host another Storytelling event in October 2017 in Lagunitas like they did in October 2016. Nichole asked for assistance in making the video and photos from this past October's Storytelling event available for viewing and Noah Brod offered to help with this.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lie Njie shortly after 3:00 p.m. and seconded by Jane Ferguson Flout. The board unanimously agreed to adjourn.