



Northern California **PEACE CORPS** ASSOCIATION

NorCalPCA Board Minutes

April 8th, 2017 3-5pm

International Rescue Committee

Hosted by: Kristen Borash

Minutes by: Sandrena Frischer

Attendees (in person):

Lie Njie - President - At Large Director

Glenn Anaiscourt - Vice President - East Bay Director

Terry Vogt - Treasurer - San Francisco Director

Kristen Borash - At-Large Director

Lila Holzman- At-Large Director

Holly Uber- At-Large Director

Sandrena Frischer - San Francisco Director

Jeff Zundel

Noah Brod

Anthony Toney

Attendees (dial-in):

Elizabeth "Ella" - At-Large Director

Absent:

Michael Hotard

Jane Ferguson Flout

Amy Ross

Approval of March Board Minutes

Lie Njie's motion to accept the January 2017 board minutes was seconded and unanimously approved by the board.

Updates

Lie Njie:

Board meetings are about what's going on and about keeping everyone else informed, not to micromanage the organization and to make all of the decisions.

- Don't feel like you need to ask for permission to make things happen - *feel ownership and responsibility!*
- Don't be afraid to reach out to Lie as well. Be proactive and accountable to each other.

Lila is doing an outstanding job with Advocacy and the Board thanked her for all of her efforts.

NorCalPCA is an opportunity to support Peace Corps nationally in this time of uncertainty.

The offsite retreat was a success, particular in regards to the facilitation and potluck. Noah suggested switching action items to earlier in the day and focusing earlier on the most important things like getting people on committees, making key decisions, etc. Lie noted that there were time constraints on some attendees time that limited the order. Ideally the offsite would be two days, and the board discussed possibly doing that next year.

The offsite was focused on training people about how we got here, but didn't have time to focus on what we want to do in the future. Our offsite facilitator Meghan Murphy has offered to facilitate a strategy meeting. The board discussed timing and it was suggested to do the strategy offsite in September after the Peace Corps Connect Conference.

Peace Corps Connect Conference, Aug 4-6:

Everyone should consider attending **Peace Corps Connect on August 4-6, 2017** (<https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/events/peace-corps-connect-partnering-for-progress>). It is a great opportunity to connect with RPCVs who have been a part of this community for a long time, and is very inspiring. NorCalPCA has two tickets for the board, and Lie will be taking one. In between the events, there are lunches, dinners, and many chances to meet other RPCVs. **If you are interested in going, contact Lie.**

Lila Holzman - Advocacy & #protectpeacecorps:

Peace Corps is rallying up in the face of potential severe budget cuts, but NPCA is doing a great job of being proactive and fighting for the organization. The "Dear Colleague Letter" among house representatives is an important part of this.

Remember to be apolitical, because that's the core of Peace Corps. Advocacy is not political action and it is critical that the board stay out of partisanship.

The hashtag #protectpeacecorps is being used for advocacy.

Lila has done a great job of representing NorCalPCA, and the organization is grateful for her work.

Lila Holzman - Proposal: support the People's Climate Movement:

The People's Climate Movement's Bay Area Climate March is on April 29th, and Lila has been involved in this. The board agreed that Peace Corps has many environmental projects and the supporting this event should indicate NorCalPCA is a strong supporter of protecting the environment, and participation in this event does not indicate NorCalPCA is taking any political stand. Lie and Lila will check with a Non-Profit expert if there's any issues with us supporting this event, and if not, NorCalPCA will pay \$25 to get a table to do outreach at the event. Lila will coordinate the event.

Noah Brod:

The Huckleberry Botanic Preserve hike was beautiful, but no one attended. Noah will post similar events

farther out in advance in the future. Currently, Noah is exploring people's expectations when volunteering and creating a process so that anytime there's an event posted, an event helper email with info and resources for logistics goes out, and then after the event has happened there can be a follow-up email. There is also a volunteer sign up sheet in the works. Ella and Lie are providing support on this, and it was confirmed that all email blasts should come from Lie or Ella,, to make sure timing is strategic and not overwhelming with other emails coming from other areas of the organization at the same time.

Glenn Annaiscourt:

Glenn proposed suggestions of possible picnic venues around the whole Bay Area. The present board members discussed, but the full conversation was tabled for a future meeting. Glenn also presented the group with various upcoming events for NorCalPCA, which he will add to the Calendar.

Holly Uber:

The planning for the mentor program has begun, as has coordination with members for Thanksgiving event and September potluck. Holly wants to make sure that we cultivate a space to make RPCVs feel welcome to ask for mentors. Holly, Michael, and Jeff are also going to spearhead the Hiking Challenge in Santa Rosa, which involves 7 hikes in 7 months, which will take place between April and December 2017.

Jeff Zundel:

There are three types of collateral we need to investigate with our switch to a new logo: (1) organization identification collateral including table banners, signage, business cards, etc. (2) T-shirts we have promised as rewards to members who chose a higher-cost membership level. (3) Potential sales of items with logos as a fundraiser.

Jeff presented several options for each type of collateral.

The board approved a motion to give Jeff an initial budget of \$500 to address the need for organization identification collateral, with no expectation that this will bring financial resources back to the organization.

The board also approved a motion to give Jeff a \$500 budget for hats and shirts to meet the need for promised shirts to members, and use the rest at events to see if there is member interest to purchase items with the NorCalPCA logo on them.

Terry will determine the appropriate place in the current budget and report back to the board any budget impacts at the next meeting.

Anthony Toney:

Anthony proposed a project to provide bags of toiletries and other self-care supplies to the Bay Area homeless population, with the goal of helping as many people as possible, with a focus on human interactions and humanity. The group discussed if this makes sense as a NorCalPCA event or as a volunteer activity, if we want to use this for tax-deductible donations, and the next steps. Anthony will work on the proposal and be in touch with Lie, Terry, and Ella to complete the content and bring back an updated proposal to the board that addresses the questions raised by the board.

Action Items for all Board Members for May Meeting:

Google Drive: Take a look at & help organize

The Google Drive is in a process of transfer from the old system inappropriately owned by a single person to a drive owned by the organization. There's an old folder with some of the old items from the old drive. By the next meeting, it's important that each board member go through the google drive to (1) orient themselves on what's there, and (2) help identify and transfer over files relevant to their area of responsibility.

Host one Board Member Event in the next 6 months

All board members agreed to post at least one event within the next six months that they would host / attend. Can be whatever you like, but needs to be made clear that a board member will be there and there should be an opportunity for people to provide feedback on NorCalPCA to the board member.

Website Training

There will be a training on the website for board members. All board members are responsible for knowing how the website works, whether or not they attend the training. The webinar will also include information on the Google Drive. Contact Ella if you would like training.

Meeting Adjourned

Kristen Borash moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Lie Njie. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.