Friends of Swaziland Board Meeting Summary - 11/17/2013

Prepared by John von Reyn, Group Leader

Meeting conducted via Conference Call

Attending: John von Reyn, Scott Lewis, Melissa Horton, Lorraine Stehn, Jack Conrad

1. Treasurer's Report - Scott.

Currently in FOS Treasury - $3549.36. No disbursements since last meeting. FOS has 32 members that have joined through National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), 29 have paid memberships and 3 others are recently returned PCV and have one year free membership through NPCA.

2. FOS Website - John for Tom.

There was a technical glitch with the FOS Website, which had not posted our recent activities. Tom corrected the problem.

3. FOS Membership Initiatives.

We continue to encourage new memberships to FOS. Michael Radmann has contacted 6 members of his group to encourage them to join.   Mike Messick, PCV in Swaziland, has been our contact in Swaziland to promote membership. He sent an email to Scott, saying that he will be compiling a list of emails of PCVs from groups 7,8,9, 10 and 11, and will forward them to Melissa and John. Scott checked on the status of this effort. John mentioned he and Patty are preparing a poster to post in the PC office in Swaziland to promote membership in Friends of Swaziland.

4. Funding of Camp GLOWS (Peace Corps Partnership Project).

Melissa was contacted by a PCV who requested that FOS help fund this project. In keeping with previous efforts to support PCVs currently serving in Swaziland, Melissa moved that FOS contribute $500 to this PC Partnership Project, which was seconded by Lorraine. Motion carred.   As in the past, Melissa will check with the Partnership Program to get in contact with the PCV who is sponsoring the project, so she can request pictures and information on the project for the FOS Website. There is also a "Books for Swaziland" project on the PC Partnership site that Melissa will review.

5. FOS Fundraising.

There was general discussion on ways to augment the FOS Treasury. Melissa had drafted a proposed fundraising letter to be used in this effort and will review it and re-send to Board members. The idea is to direct it to RPCVs who served in Swaziland that may have financial resources to help us fund projects, possibly Reed Hastings and Chris Matthews. (Reed had donated $3000 in an earlier fundraising campaign for Young Heroes.) Jack mentioned that he has a friend that knows Reed and may be of assistance. Melissa will also draft an information piece about FOS funding the Camp Glows project that we will post on the FOS Website, FOS Facebook page and on the SDRPCV Egroup list, so readers on these sites will be aware of FOS activities and will be encouraged to contribute to FOS.

6. FOS Promotional Poster and Powerpoint.

John and Patty are working on this and will have a draft available before the next board meeting.

7. SD Trip for May 2014 to coincide with Young Heroes Fundraising Event.

Currently no Board member is planning on participating in the Young Heroes Ride Fundraising event. John will send information to Tom to post on the FOS Website.

8. Board Member Bios/PCV Experience to Encourage FOS Board Membership.

Jack proposed that Board members write up a bios about their PC Swaziland experience and involvement with FOS and post them on the SD RPCV elist, FOS Website, FOS Facebook site, etc. to encourage others to join the FOS Board. He will write one up and Scott, John, and Lorraine will follow up, posting one about every quarter.

9. SD RPCV EMail list.

Jack encouraged the Board to post news articles and other items about Swaziland on the SD RPCV Email List, which currently has 237 members. John said he would post the summary from today's meeting.

10. Next FOS Board Meeting - 2/2/2014.

Next FOS Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 2 at 8 PM EST. Jack mentioned that he has another method of conference calling that is toll free if dialing to the 305 area code is an issue for anyone. Please let me know.