

Friends of Swaziland Board Meeting Summary - November 22, 2015

Friends of Swaziland held an open board meeting on Sunday, November 22, 2015, at 8PM EST via teleconference. Board Members attending were: John von Reyn Group Leader; Scott Lewis Treasurer, and Board Members, Melissa Horton, Laura Reynolds and Brandon Bobiskink.

John welcomed all to the meeting and asked those calling in to introduce themselves and relate their connection to Swaziland. Scott then delivered the Treasurer's report: Currently there is \$3553 in the treasury.

Agenda Items discussed:

- **National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) Move to Free Membership.** - John and Scott reported on the videoconferences they attended on NPCA's new membership structure. Effective January 2016, the National Peace Corps Association will be moving to free membership, instead of the current paid membership. NPCA will continue to collect membership dues for affiliated groups such as Friends of Swaziland. More information (FAQs) about NPCA's new membership structure can be found at this [link](#). FOS will see how the new fee structure affects us and will make a determination at our next meeting on whether to also go to a free membership structure.
- **Peace Corps 55th Anniversary Celebration September 2016.** - The 55th Anniversary celebration of Peace Corps, sponsored by the National Peace Corps Association, will be held in Washington, D.C. in September 2016. Exact dates have not been announced. FOS has always sponsored meetings and events at the DC conference, which are well-attended. FOS will need to begin planning events when NPCA gives us more information and firm dates.
- **Move to Videoconferencing for future board meetings** - John and Scott were both been impressed by NPCA's use of Zoom Videoconferencing for their presentation on their new membership structure. Scott mentioned that the "free" version may be available for us to use, but is limited to meetings no longer than 45 minutes. Brandon thought that FOS may be able to use the WebEx Videoconferencing that he uses at work and will check on its possible use by FOS.
- **Peace Corps List of PCVs who have served in SD.** Scott Lewis contacted Peace Corps and was provided with a list of all PCVs who have served in Swaziland and received a list of over 1500 names, with dates of service, which he emailed to the Board. It also includes PCVs still serving in Swaziland. This has the potential to be an important resource for contacting RPCVs to see if they are interested in joining FOS.
- **Membership Coordinator Needed.** FOS needs a volunteer to focus on ways of growing our membership among RPCVs and PCVs who are completing their service and wish to remain involved in helping the Swazi people. John is drafting a paper on membership ideas that he will be sharing with the Board.
- **FOS to in-country PCVs/FOS Slides and Poster Update** - As far as generating membership from PCVs still serving, Laura and John have been working on a Google slide presentation that can be used to encourage current PCVs to join FOS at their Completion of Service conference. Brandon mentioned the need to have these ready well in advance of the conference and also recommended that we include an easy way for PCVs to sign up for FOS while still at the conference. John will contact NPCA to see if signing up through NPCA is an easy and a viable option. This slide

presentation needs to be completed as soon as possible and submitted to the Peace Corps Desk Officer. Board members are encouraged to look over and comment on the [presentation](#) and [poster](#).

- ***FOS Social/Fundraiser in DC to engage local SD/RPCVs*** - We discussed plans for a get-together of local RPCVs, possibly in February, at a local restaurant or bar. An afterwork event on a Thursday or Friday was deemed best. Brandon mentioned some bars donate proceeds toward fundraising events and we should try to investigate this possibility. Also may want to focus on a fundraising for a specific project. (Not discussed, but we may also want to invite the PC Desk Officer for Swaziland.)
- ***Vote on proposal to fund 2 PC/Partnership projects in Swaziland: [Camp Glows](#) - \$250 and [Books for Africa](#) - \$250.*** Board voted to contribute funding to these two projects for the amount specified. (Later changed to \$500 for the Camp GLOWS initiative, as the Books for Africa project has been fully funded.)
- ***New Group Leader Needed after January 2016.*** John announced his intention to step down as Group Leader by the end of January, but remain on the Board. After 15 years serving in this capacity, John felt that is time to give someone else the opportunity to lead and FOS would be well-served by someone with new energy and fresh ideas to effectively lead the group. If there is a current Board member interested in serving, please contact John.