

Present: Mark (chair), Jack, Anuj, Mike, Maria, Harry, Bronwen, Sheila, Karen (notes), Tim

1) Minutes and business arising from meeting January 17, 2024

Minutes accepted; moved by Jack; 2nd Harry

Follow-up on action items.

1. **Action from Jan 17:** The governance committee (Tim & Maria) will work on a sponsorship MOU, which will help define roles between our SAH and SAFE and other CG's. Maria is gathering documents. Sheila and Anuj will help with the financial pieces of these kinds of documents. The MOU will reference our Code of Ethics.
2. **Action from Jan 17:** Bronwen will re-format the family check-in documents to make them easier to read and to create a cumulative document. Looking at creating 1 document with all 4 reports, and not in Acrobat.
3. **Action from Jan. 17:** Training requirements for CG's (manual and training). Lucille and Peter setting up.
4. **Action from Feb 14:** Confidentiality Agreement: Mike to send out a revised version. We will discuss and vote next meeting.
5. **Action item from Feb 14:** Bronwen will let families know that they can submit requests for SAFE sponsorships until the end of February, and that we're developing selection criteria.
6. **Action from Feb 14:** Harry, Mike and Mark will present a revised version of the Sponsorship Application document at the April Board meeting. They will also look at 5 applications that Harry has received and present thoughts at our April board meeting.

2) Financial report

Accepted: Anuj moved, Sheila 2nd

BVOR: Feds pay RAP for first 6 months (\$936/month)

Rules allow us to ask CG's for \$525 for SAH expenses. Sheila proposed using interest to pay for this, rather than further demand on families.

Anuj is exploring getting more flexible high interest account and put all TDs in one account.

3) Check-ins

Reviewed check-ins for SAH

Some outstanding check-ins for other CG's

4) AGM

13th March at the Credit Union

Board member Tim McCoy will be our speaker

Mahmoud Almasri preparing food

Action: AGM will be publicized on Facebook, and invite sent to donors and CG's

Action: Mark will send out invitation to master list, and to Ken at CJFX

Decision: AGM team can spend \$350 on food, etc.

5) Nominations

Jack wants all of us to suggest people. Important to find people who are prepared to do things
We can have a maximum of 12 Board members. We have an offer from a candidate who could step in in November.

Action: Mark will send out invitation to SAFE list asking for interest to serve on the Board.

Action: Jack will send board member request blurb to Bronwen and Mark.

Action: Bronwen will put on Facebook

6) BVOR update

Wazhma Sadat will be coming to Antigonish from Afghanistan via India. Do not have news about her flight

Thanks for letter that Bronwen sent to Wazhma welcoming her to Antigonish

We have enough money for 2 more families

Service Canada has training about federal money available (from the federal government: dental, EI, etc) for self-employed people. Available for SAFE families or others

7) Requests for SAFE sponsorships (see Harry's Latest document)

Decision: SAFE as SAH will ask for 100% of funds for unaccompanied father (Alabbas). Ask for 1-year window for the rest of the family, but not funds. Moved by Harry/2nd by Bronwen

Harry has 5 sponsorship applications now.

8) Criteria for selecting families to sponsor: Harry, Mike and Mark

Mike explained that the Sponsorship Application is a working document. SAFE will give families feedback and they can re-write. Ideas:

- Limitation on family size.
- Ask sponsor for reasonable plan for housing (add why this is important/ what is our rationale)
- Refer to the document as A Guide to Decision-making
- We can add other aspirations to these guidelines: e.g., 50% from other CG's; more women

Suggestion that Board members not personally involved with applicants do the first review of an application.

Syria - Antigonish Families Embrace (SAFE) Steering Committee - MINUTES

Wed, Feb 14, 2024, 4:30-7:00 PM

ECCU Meeting Room

Webinar Feb 24 about requirements for co-sponsoring

1) **Meeting adjournment**

Next meeting AGM March 13 at 6:30. East Coast Credit Union