

Present: Mark (chair), Harry, Ellaheen, Maria, Karen F (notes), Rebecca, Tim, Karen B, Bronwen

Regrets: Anuj

Action items:

- Mark and Maria will organize a session to give new board members more context/history
- Maria, Tim and Anuj will draft a Contingency Group/SAH Memorandum of Understanding and circulate to board and Pictou CG
- Mark will put table showing family check-in schedule (created by Sue Adams) on One Drive
- Harry asked for a board member to volunteer to become his backup in sponsorship applications.
- Mark will notify CG's of the Guidelines for Sponsorship Request Approval.
- Harry will ask whether a house he knows of is available for rental for a newcomer family

1) Minutes of February 10th board meeting

Accepted: Moved by Harry, 2nd Maria

2) Follow up on action items from March 13th AGM

Develop an MOU between SAH and contingency group: Maria, Tim, Sheila and Anuj met to review a template they have chose. They will separate the document into 2 sections: 1) concerning the contingency group; and 2) concerning the families. They will send a draft to board members and the Pictou group for feedback.

Action: Maria, Tim and Anuj will draft a Contingency Group/SAH Memorandum of Understanding and circulate to board and Pictou CG

On-line storage place for check-in reports. One document per family? In process

Confidentiality agreement has been signed by all board members

3) Succession and Committee understudies

Tim has accepted to be vice chair; Karen secretary and Mark chair.

Ellaheen volunteered for the Employment committee, Rebecca for Education, and KarenB for Settlement

Action: Mark and Maria will organize a session to give new board members more context/history

4) Financial report

- Financial Report for March accepted: Moved by KarenB; 2nd Harry; all in favour
- Motion to accept the 2023 audit cost of \$4,500 plus tax. Moved by Tim; 2nd KarenB
- Motion to accept the 2024 audit cost of \$4,500 plus tax. Deferred

5) Check-ins

We reviewed the list

Action: Mark will put table showing family check-in schedule (created by Sue Adams) on One Drive

6) Sponsorship applications

We now have 4 applications ready to start the formal process, for a total of 23 people (our allotment is 25 people for 2024, with pool re-opening in July for CG's who want to sponsor more people): Fatumo Ahmed and family (4 total); Basam Darbi and family (6 total); Muna Elsofi and family (total 5); and Mohamad Alahmad and family (total 8)

We've had expressions of interest from Burhan Zaheer for his wife's brother and family

Decision: Harry moved that SAFE communicate to the four current PSR Co-sponsors (making up 23 persons) to start sending the equity required to SAFE, as well as their Digital Portal. Formal submittal of the request from our SAH to IRCC to occur when 100% of the sponsorship funds have been received by SAFE. 2nd, Bronwen

Decision: Harry moved that the recently drafted Guidelines for Sponsorship Request Approval be adopted as a guiding document. These guidelines will be distributed to all CG's. 2nd KarenB
We have 2 more potential family applicants.

Action: Harry asked for a board member to volunteer to become his backup in sponsorship applications.

7) EID gifts

Moved by Bronwen that we spend an estimated total of \$485 on EID gifts; 2nd by Harry.

8) Training/Webinars/meetings

A Room Over Your Head meeting with SAFE on April 5 - Bronwen and Karen spoke on behalf of SAFE. Clients of AROYH have spoken of their frustration when they are desperate to find housing and then find out that newcomers have found housing
AROYH is working in crisis mode because of limited housing and high need. No emergency shelter in Antigonish or Guysborough. AROYH housing workers find that their clients are stigmatised by landlords.

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

Wed, April 10, 2024, 6:30-8:45 PM

ECCU Meeting Room

Naomi Society info share – Bronwen and Karen attended. They discussed SAFE connecting with the staff member who coordinates a “creating and supporting a healthy family” series of classes.

9) Housing

Action: Harry will ask whether a house he knows of is available for rental for a newcomer family.

10) Meeting adjournment

Next meeting June 12, 6:30.