

## Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace

December 14, 2022

7:00-8:00 pm

25 Appleseed Dr. Community Room

Present: Ruth Adams, Mark Ballard, Jack Beaton, Bronwen Cooke, Harry Daemen, Marla Gaudet, Lucille Harper, Sheila Sears, Peter Wade, Burhan Zaheer

Regrets: Alaa Hadhad, Maria vanVonderan

### Minutes

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#### **Agenda Item: Introductions**

Welcome to those joining us who are interested in finding out more about SAFE.

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#### **Agenda Item: Minutes and Business Arising**

Discussion:

Peter reported two follow up discussions from last month's minutes:

1. Cloverville Rd. house: an agreement is being created with Antigonish Affordable Housing
2. Whidden St. house: John Hamilton is happy to have SAFE's input if there are changes to tenants in the house

Actions:

Jack moved to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2022 meeting.

Seconded by Pete.

All in favour.

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#### **Agenda Item: Financial Report**

Discussion:

One small change noted: New TD 46 (listed in November Expenses/Debits) to be changed to New TD 63.

Actions:

Sheila moved to adopt the financial report for November 30, 2022, with the above change to be made.

Seconded by Marla.

All in favour.

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**Agenda Item: Sponsorship Applications, Overseas Family Updates and Pending Family Arrivals**

Discussion:

See agenda.

Ibrahim Balkis Bairouti family of 2: had their medicals.

No update has come on the Hudhud and Bayan family linked application.

Sabbagh family of 5: Lucille has recently requested an update.

Shoshara family of 3 (One Year Window): Lucille will request another update soon.

Al Sedawi family of 1: a G# has been received but no update since.

Bashir Hussein family of 2 (CG: CARE): application to be submitted this week.

Actions:

**Lucille** will request an update on the Hudhud Bayan application.

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**Agenda Item: Sponsorship Requests Approved by SAFE/Applications in Progress**

Discussion:

See agenda for details.

Osama Sueiman Al Talib: Family of 4

Khoshbo Lodin: young Afghan woman; sponsorship requested by Linda Darwish with support from St FX faculty group

Hamida Hussaini: OAS application; space found through Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax SAH.

Nirere Family of 4, linked with 2 adult children (Safe Harbour sponsorship): hoping application will be in by end of year.

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**Agenda Item: Current Family Updates**

Discussion:

Short updates were given about each family that arrived in late 2021 or 2022.

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**Agenda Item: SAFE SAH Sponsored Families Updates**

Discussion:

Al Awad/Al Issa Family (Syrian Family Reunification Project) moving to Halifax.

Meshal Al Issa (Syrian Family Reunification Project) considering secondary migration to Halifax.

Alqass Matte Family of 5 (FAIR Hearts): considering secondary migration to Ontario.

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### **Agenda Item: Joint Volunteer Recruitment Session**

Discussion:

A joint volunteer recruitment session with SAFE, CACL, ACT and AAHS is being planned for January 17. Maria has sent an e-mail with details for the day.

We are considering having an evening event to gather potential SAFE volunteers. Those who signed up at the fair will be invited, as well as others we think may be interested in contributing to SAFE.

Actions:

**Marla** will purchase a gift certificate to Grape Leaves as a prize for a draw.

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### **Agenda Item: SAH Organizational Assessment**

Discussion:

For submitted November 21, 2022, before the deadline.

A big thank you to Sheila, Lucille, Mark and Harry who worked on completing this document and attending to the many details that were required. It was a big job!

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### **Agenda Item: SAH Annual Report Submitted**

Discussion:

The SAH Annual Report was submitted to IRCC on November 29, 2022. SAFE has requested 10 SAH spaces and 3 BVOR spaces. We will be allowed to carry over some of our unused spaces from this year.

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The open to membership portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:00.