

Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace
Steering Committee Meeting

June 14, 2022
7:00-8:15 pm
Online Zoom

Present: Mark Ballard, Mary Ballard, Jack Beaton, Bronwen Cooke, Harry Daemen, Marla Gaudet, Alaa Hadhad, Lucille Harper, Sheila Sears, Osama Sulaiman, Maria vanVonderan (joined 7:45)

Regrets: Osama Sulaiman, Pete Wade

Minutes

Agenda Item: June 13 Motion by E-mail

Sheila moved that SAFE make an expenditure of \$306 + tax for an Auction thank you in the Casket.

Seconded by Harry.

All in favour.

Agenda Item: Minutes and Business Arising

Discussion:

Harry suggested two corrections to May minutes: that under the Almasri update it be noted that Harry circulated the notes to the committee, uploaded to OneDrive and notified Sue Adams. Also, that Mark will prepare questionnaires for the SAH Integrity Framework to be distributed to the Steering Committee.

Business Arising:

As followup to agreeing to sponsor Shorouk Alhasan's brother, who has information about alternative immigration streams?

RSTP Training Program requirements for co-sponsors: How do we track that co-sponsors have completed these training sessions?

Actions:

Harry moved that minutes be accepted with noted corrections.

Seconded by Jack.

All in favour.

Harry will send information about alternative immigration streams to Lucille and Sheila so that they can also be aware of possibilities being considered.

Mark will create a sheet for recording what co-sponsors have completed RSTP training sessions.

Agenda Item: Treasurer's Report

Sheila Sears

Discussion:

Mark may know of someone willing to do the financial audit.

Sheila discussed the fact that at this time there is not a contingency fund for SAFE sponsored families.

Actions:

Sheila moved to accept the May 31, 2022 Treasurer's Report.

Seconded by Harry.

All in favour.

Sheila moved that we use the administration contingency fund (TD 53) of \$6000 if needed for SAFE sponsored families without a contingency fund in the event of an emergency.

Seconded by Mary.

All in favour.

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

Discussion:

Alawad, Meshal, CG: Syrian Family Reunification Project, Inverness, PSR application -- arriving June 29, 0:26 am in Sydney.

Alqass Matte family, CG: FAIR Hearts, Westville, PSR application – Ankara, request for Confirmation of Arrival and Quarantine plan received May 4, 2022

Rana Ghntawi family of 3, Lebanon, SAFE, PSR application – arriving July 18, AC 608 at 17:18

Alahmad family of 6, SAFE, PSR application – Lebanon, completed medicals.

Abdulkader Mohmed Sabbagh family of 5, SAFE, PSR application. – Egypt, interview scheduled May 18.

Ibrahim Balkis Bairouti family of 2, Egypt, SAFE, PSR application -- interview, May 26.

Bashir Hussein family of 2, CG: CARE, PSR application underway

Abdalmajeed Al Sedawi family of 1, SAFE PSR application with co-sponsor Ammar Hudhud, submitted May 27, 2022.

Aysha Shoshara family of 3, One Year Window, Syria, February 2022 – request for more information and supporting documents for family received June 13, 2022

Agenda Item: Families sponsored by SAFE for whom we are waiting arrival.

Discussion:

1. Abdalrazak Alahmad family of 6, Lebanon, December 2019
2. Rana Ghntawi family of 3, Lebanon, February 2020
3. Mohamed Almohamed family of 7, Lebanon, September 2020
4. Ibrahim Balkis Bairouti family of 2, Egypt, March 2021
5. Rowaida Hudhud family of 2 (linked), Lebanon, to settle in Halifax, June 2021
6. Yazan Bayan, family of 1 (linked), Lebanon, to settle in Halifax, June 2021
7. Abdulkader Mohmed Sabbagh family of 5, Egypt, September 2021

8. Aysha Shoshara family of 3, One Year Window, Syria, February 2022
9. Abdalmajeed Al Sedawi family of 1, May 2022 (acceptance of application not yet confirmed)
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Agenda Item: Sponsorship Requests

Discussion:

Burnhanuddin Zaheer family of 7: An indepth discussion was had with Linda Jones and Yogesh Ghore about expectations around settlement. Linda is gathering the money. Yogesh has put out a call for volunteers. Lucille has sent the applications to Burnhanddin to start working on. The application will be expedited so it is expected that the family will be here by December, 2023, as part of Operation Afghan Safety.

Sarah Wiseman is requesting SAH spaces from SAFE for Safe Harbour to sponsor a family from Kenya. This family is related to a family that came through the EIPP.

Actions:

Sheila moved that, if needed, SAFE provide 4 spaces to Safe Harbour to sponsor the family from Kenya.
Seconded by Jack.
All in favour.

Agenda Item: Rachel McNally Focus Group—Rural Resettlement

Actions:

Lucille, Jack and Sheila will participate June 29 or 30.

Agenda Item: Azaiza Family Update

Discussion:

Maria vanVonderan (Health Committee) joined the meeting to discuss the issue of the need for funding for dental work for Mohammad Azaiza. This dental work is not covered under Interim Federal Health Benefits.

Mark is helping the Azaizas to look for alternative housing arrangements.

Actions:

Marla moved that we pay the \$600 starting fee for Mohammad Azaiza's dental work. In addition, SAFE will pay \$4200 over the next 8 months to Dr. Richardson, minus \$50/month which will be contributed by the Azaiza family.

Seconded by Mary.

Majority in favour.

Maria will contact Dr. Richarson's office to move the process forward and will ask Dr. Richardson's office to invoice SAFE.

Maria left the meeting.

Agenda Item: Almasri Family Update

Discussion:

The 6 month check in was circulated to Steering Committee members.
Request for Information from IRCC: information was submitted June 9.

Agenda Item: Sulaiman Family Update

Discussion:

The 3 month check in was completed.
Both brothers are working, wanting more English language training.

Agenda Item: Al Issa Family Update

Discussion:

The 6 month check in was completed. There is nothing outstanding to report.

Agenda Item: Walaa Hadhad Family Update

Discussion:

The 3 month check in was completed. There is nothing outstanding to report.

Agenda Item: Al Hariri Family Update

Discussion: More English language instruction is wanted.

Agenda Item: September Daycare for Children of English Learners

Discussion: Jack, Mark and Bronwen will meet with Y-Reach to discuss the issue of childcare while parents are in English language classes. Currently, there are no daycare spots available in Antigonish, with daycares having extensive waitlists.

Jack, Mark and Bronwen also plan to discuss attendance at English language classes, instruction time offered to learners, and attendance requirements.

Actions:

A summary of actions will be provided to the Steering Committee at our next meeting.

Agenda Item: Steering Committee Membership

Discussion:

Othman Soufan has resigned from the Steering Committee. Maria vanVonderan has been nominated to fill the empty position until the next AGM.

Actions:

Harry moved that Maria vanVonderan join the SAFE Steering Committee until the next AGM.

Seconded by Sheila.

All in favour.

Lucille will contact Maria about joining the Steering Committee.

Agenda Item: Housing for Rana Ghntawi Family

Discussion:

An apartment is available for Rana Ghntawi and family on Court St. Bronwen, Gary Wong and members of the Ghentawi family went to view the apartment and suggest that we secure this apartment. The Steering Committee agreed.

Agenda Item: Vulnerable Sector Checks

Discussion: Vulnerable Sector Checks and Child Abuse Registry Checks should be completed in the next 3 months by any volunteers who have not yet completed them.

Actions:

Sheila will get an updated list from Sue Adams to determine who has completed these checks.

Agenda Item: Ghntawi Family Arrival

Actions:

Bronwen, Jack and Lucille will meet with the family via Zoom in early July. We will ask Marla to join us and Alaa to translate.

Lucille will set up the meeting.

Agenda Item: Next Meeting

July 12, 2022 at the Library.
