

Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace

May 10, 2022

7:00-8:15 pm

Online Zoom

Present: Sue Adams, Qasim Azaiza, Mark Ballard, Mary Ballard, Jack Beaton, Bronwen Cooke, Harry Daemen, Alaa Hadhad, Lucille Harper, Sheila Sears, Osama Sulaiman, Maria vanVonderan, Peter Wade,

Regrets: Marla Gaudet, Othman Soufan, Norine Verberg

Minutes

Agenda Item: Minutes and Business Arising

Actions:

Pete moved to accept the April 12, 2022 minutes.

Seconded by Harry.

All in favour.

Sheila moved to approve the February 8, 2022 minutes.

Seconded by Mark.

All in favour.

Agenda Item: Treasurer's Report

Sheila Sears

Actions:

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

Seconded by Mark.

All in favour.

Agenda Item: Fundraising—SAFE Walk/Run 2022

Discussion:

Some discussion has started around doing a SAFE Walk/Run 2022, similar to what was done last year. Sheila recommended that all donations be made through CanadaHelps due to the high volume of tax receipts.

It was suggested that the captains from last year's teams can be involved in the organization of the event.

Actions:

Harry will represent the Steering Committee on the organizing committee and will contact Norine to see how work should proceed and what students can be recruited to help.

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

Discussion:

- Alawad, Meshal, CG: Syrian Family Reunification Project, Inverness, PSR application -- request for Confirmation of Arrival and Quarantine plan received April 6.
 - Alqass Matte family, CG: FAIR Hearts, Westville, PSR application – Ankara, request for Confirmation of Arrival and Quarantine plan received April 12, 2022 and May 4, 2022
 - Rana Ghntawi family of 3, Lebanon, SAFE, PSR application – request for Confirmation of Arrival and Quarantine plan received May 5, 2022
 - Alahmad family of 6, SAFE, PSR application – completed medicals.
 - Bashir Hussein family of 2, CG: CARE, PSR -- application underway
 - Mohammad Bairqdar, family of 1, November request from Syrian Family Reunification Project, Inverness, PSR application – stalled
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Agenda Item: Families sponsored by SAFE for whom we are waiting arrival.

Discussion:

1. Abdalrazak Alahmad family of 6, Lebanon, December 2019
2. Mohamed Almohamed family of 7, Lebanon, September 2020
3. Ibrahim Balkis Bairouti family of 2, Egypt, March 2021
4. Rowaida Hudhud family of 2 (linked), Lebanon, to settle in Halifax, June 2021
5. Yazan Bayan, family of 1 (linked), Lebanon, to settle in Halifax, June 2021
6. Abdulkader Mohmed Sabbagh family of 5, Egypt, September 2021
7. Aysha Shoshara family of 3, One Year Window, Syria, February 2022

Action:

Lucille will work to find out what embassy Aysha Shoshara will be interviewing at so that she can anticipate her travel to the interview.

Agenda Item: SAFE Operation Afghan Safety (OAS) Spaces

Discussion:

SAFE has 10 spaces available. Linda Jones and Yogesh Ghore have made inquiries about a family of 5. Funding is not being provided by the Canadian government. The family is trying to register with IRCC, without success. Linda Jones is working to raise money and is asking SAFE to keep 5 spaces available for this family.

Actions:

All agreed to hold 5 spaces for the family, as requested by Linda Jones. SAFE will be named as a co-sponsor with Linda and Yogesh, with the expectation that Yogesh and Linda will form a settlement group to oversee the settlement work.

Agenda Item: BVOR Families Now Listed

Discussion:

SAFE currently has 11 sponsorship spaces from 2021 and 20 spaces from 2022.

Actions:

Bronwen moved that SAFE put aside money for a BVOR family of 4, to be applied for 3-6 months after the arrival of the Rana Ghentawi family.

Seconded by Jack Beaton.

All in favour.

Agenda Item: Peace by Chocolate Film Screening, May 14 & 15

Discussion:

The New Glasgow and Halifax fundraisers were very successful.

Pete and Alaa will speak at the May 14 screening in Antigonish.

Agenda Item: Vulnerable Sector Checks and Child Abuse Registry

Discussion:

IRCC requires that all members of the Board have these checks done.

We should also be asking volunteers to have these checks done.

Actions:

Please submit to Sue Adams ASAP.

Agenda Item: Rural Resettlement Model

Discussion:

A subcommittee continues to work on this project.
