

Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace
Steering Committee Meeting

April 12, 2022
7:00-8:30 pm
Online Zoom

Present: Mark Ballard, Mary Ballard, Jack Beaton, Bronwen Cooke, Harry Daemen, Alaa Hadhad, Lucille Harper, Sheila Sears, Osama Sulaiman, Peter Wade

Regrets: Marla Gaudet, Othman Soufan

Minutes

Agenda Item: Welcome

Discussion: Lucille welcomed Alaa and Osama to the Steering Committee. We are so happy they have agreed to join!

Agenda Item: Minutes and Business Arising

Discussion:
Sheila noted that the minutes should read “\$90 US dollars for auction fees”.

Actions:
Pete moved to accept the March 1, 2022 minutes.
 Seconded by Harry.
 All in favour.

Agenda Item: Treasurer’s Report

Sheila Sears

Discussion:
\$5631 was received in March from the auction. Sheila anticipates that another \$700 will come in. In the future, the auction can be even more successful if we spread the word more widely among our networks.
Many thanks to Sheila who worked very hard to make the auction such a great success.

The funds that remain from SAFE distributing money for the Shapiro foundation have been given as a gift to SAFE.

When families arrive and all of the start up costs have been paid out, Term Deposits then become marked as an asset.

Actions:

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

Seconded by Harry.

All in favour.

Agenda Item: Family Month Reviews

Discussion:

Who will take responsibility for ensuring that the regularly scheduled updates have been completed?

Azaiza family—Alaa, Lucille, Pete. One month due April 3. 3 month due June 2.

Almasri family—Mary, Harry and Othman. 6 month due May 3.

Sulaiman family—Mary, Lucille, Othman. 3 month due March 3. 6 month due June 3.

Al Issa Family—Jack, Bronwen, Alaa. 3 month due Feb 26, 6 month due May 26.

Darbi Family—Osama, Sheila, Bronwen. 1 month due April 18.

Al Hariri Family—Mark, Mary, Alaa. 1 month due April 30.

Actions:

Bronwen will contact Sue Adams to ask if she is willing to track the update schedule and send out reminders as needed.

Lucille will send Steering Committee members copies of all monthly review check lists.

All updates will be delayed until after Ramadan.

Steering Committee members performing the reviews are asked to prepare a one page report outlining what requirements have been met, what follow up is needed. These one page reports will be stored on the OneDrive account.

Agenda Item: Family Updates

Discussion:

Darbi family: kids are happy at school; Ghassan's English language assessment has been completed.

Sulaiman family: Adnan is starting work as a cleaner at St. FX. Husam is looking for work.

Almasri family: The family has made contact with the virtual doctor system. Mahmoud is working with ISANS to find employment. Marwa has been enrolled in the Women in the Workplace program through ISANS.

Azaiza family: kids have begun school.

Al Hariri family: ISANS intake has been done; language assessment is next week; looking for a doctor; HST/GST tax credit application has been completed; housing subsidy application is being worked on.

Alaa and Osama left the meeting at this point.

Agenda Item: Sponsorship Requests

Discussion:

It was agreed that all families who request to be co-sponsors should be required to take the RSTP training webinars as part of family arrival preparation.

It is important that we talk to the sponsored family in a co-sponsorship situation, to discuss their expectations and SAFE's expectations, before the application process begins so that family is going into the sponsorship with realistic expectations of what life will be like when they arrive in Canada.

Actions:

Bronwen and Lucille will meet with Bilal and Shorouk to talk about the possibility of sponsorship of Shorouk's brother and family and Bilal's sister and family.

Lucille will send a copy of the Sponsorship Request form to Dr. Chadid.

Mark will put the most recent version of the Sponsorship Request form on the OneDrive.

Agenda Item: Participation at Steering Committee meetings for a non-Steering Committee member

Discussion:

If a member of SAFE would like to be more involved, can they attend the Steering Committee meetings?

Actions:

Pete moved that beginning with the May meeting, every second meeting will be open to the public for the first 45 minutes. The second 45 minutes of the meeting will be for Steering Committee members only.

Seconded by Jack.

All in favour.

Please reach out to others who may wish to attend SAFE meetings.

Agenda Item: Eid Gifts

Actions:

Bronwen moved that we give Eid gifts to newly arrived families as we have done in the past.

Seconded by Sheila.

All in favour.

Agenda Item: Peace by Chocolate Film Screening

Discussion:

In what ways will SAFE be involved?

Pete will speak; complementary tickets are being offered to Syrian-Canadian families.

Agenda Item: Rural Resettlement Model

Discussion:

On hold during this busy time.

Agenda Item: Items of Information

Discussion:

The SAH Association meeting will be held June 1, online. Lucille has asked for a back-up individual to attend with her as she is in the last term of being on the Steering Committee.

Some members of the Steering Committee met with Mayor Laurie Boucher. Discussion was had around the issue of the housing crisis. Laurie said that SAFE could present at a Council meeting in the future. Laurie will write a letter to ISANS to reinforce the idea of having a paid employee stationed in this area of Nova Scotia. Laurie is interested in being involved in an acknowledgement of new Canadian citizens.

Conflict Resolution workshop: Jack attended. The RSTP will provide free conflict resolution services to sponsorship groups.

Actions:

Lucille will attend the SAH Association meetings.

Harry agreed to attend if none of the other executive could.

Agenda Item: Capacity Self Assessment

Actions:

Mark will review the format of the Capacity Self Assessment questions, administer the questions to the Steering Committee and then compile the responses. He aims to have this process completed before the summer.

Agenda Item: Family Arrival Celebration and One Year Celebration

Discussion:

The celebration will be held outside when it becomes a little warmer.

Agenda Item: Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2022.
