

MINUTES

Syria - Antigonish Families Embrace (SAFE) Steering Committee
Thursday, September 12, 2023, 6:30 -9:00 PM
Appleseed Court Community Room, 29 Appleseed Dr

Present: Maria, Mike, Jack, Sheila, Anuj, Harry, Mark (chair), Karen (minutes), Eric
Regrets:

1) Minutes and Business arising from Meeting July 20, 2023

Actions

Harry will send changes that need to be made to the minutes.

Karen will change and post 2 versions of July and September minutes: one for board and one for web

Decision: Harry moved the minutes be adopted as corrected. 2nd Mike

2) Financial Report (Sheila) and fundraising

Sheila reported on financial status

Confirmed that with our A status, we only have to complete a simpler financial review, not an audit, for next 5 years

Decision: Financial statement adoption moved by Sheila, 2nd Harry

Fund raising campaign is ready to launch on September 15/16th (direct email, personalized to previous donors, social media blast with support from Dan Austen), Canada Helps, faculty listserve, board members reach out to family/friends) Fundraising goal is \$20,000 between Sept 15th and Oct 15th. Money to bring 2 BVOR families. Receipt for donations over \$25

Discussion of how we should use the money we raise.

Shapiro Foundation might be a good corporate donor opportunity.

Action:

Bronwen will ask families if they have pictures that they would be okay with having on social media

SAFE will take responsibility for sponsoring 2 BVOR families over the coming 2-3 years

Policy group to look at developing parameters for deciding how to spend the money we raise.

Anuj will send out email asking board members how they think funds raised should be used.

3) SAFE Sponsorship Applications/Updates (Harry):

See Harry's report

Action:

Mike could arrange for delivery of new furniture to Somers Rd storage and have Almohamed /Alahmad family meet there to exchange/take items.

Agenda item for October : have 1 storage space for all Antigonish refugee families?

Decisions:

We need a formal process for sponsors to follow when making sponsorship requests, even before we look at the application. Do we need a single contact point for requests?

We need a formal process for how we choose families for a given year, given limits set by federal govt.

Actions:

Mark will put together check list for determining family sponsorship; board to review

Karen will work with Dan Austen to take down sponsorship request form on web site.

4) SAFE as SAH Organizational Assessment Results

See results and summary sent by Mark

Assigned "Plan A" Only have to do self-assessment after 5 years

5 year agreement to be signed by Oct 10 2023

Evaluators recommend we focus on the following before next assessment in 5 years

1. Enhanced assessment and screening of potential partners
2. Establish a process of training for CG's and/or Co-Sponsors
3. Establish a process of direct outreach with sponsored newcomers to ensure support is being provided

SAFE could renew request to other Community Groups to sit in on 6 month check-ins; we were doing this, but can do it again. Challenges with translator. Need more direct communication between SAFE member and family members. We could hire translators (\$20/hour) and require them to follow translation rules Might be worth hiring a prof translator to meet with one of our members at month 9. Ask ISANS (Mark) Not just Arabic speakers

Decisions

All board members to read and sign for 5 documents provided (and notify board about any concerns) by October 1, 2023, prior to our signing the summary.

5) SAH Workshops and Meetings Attendance/Report out

None taken since last meeting

Sep 18/7PM or Sept 26/2PM **Harry**

Sept 25/2PM or Oct 3/7PM - Risk Management Plan - "Plan A" - **Mike**

Sept 25 3PM SAH Peer-to-Peer round table - **Mark** (attended)

Oct 10/2PM or Oct 17/7PM - Digital Portal Walkthrough – **Harry**

Oct 11/2PM or Oct 25/7PM - New Post Arrival Req - **Bronwen**

Oct 14 Atlantic SAH roundtable **Sheila**

Oct 17 SAFE speaker request Poverty Reduction event Port Hawkesbury **Jack**

Oct 18 Full day - Prentice Institute Rural Resettlement Workshop - **Mark & Karen**

Presenting regional women's auxiliary **Sheila**

CANH webinars, and 25-hour course **Maria**

6) Next meeting

October 12th

There was no August 2023 meeting