

Peaceworks Inc Board of Directors Telecon, 22 September 2009

**Peaceworks, Inc. Board of Directors
Telecon Minutes**

22 September, 2009

*“Toward the One, the perfection of love, harmony and beauty,
the only being, united with all the illuminated souls
who form the embodiment of the master, the spirit of guidance.”*

Retiring Board members present: Ginger Nuria Lee; Lance Yaqin Sandleben;
Farishta Karen Lindsay; Darvesha Victoria MacDonald

Continuing Board member present: Darvesha Victoria MacDonald

Non-BOD present: Sky Majida Roshay (Secretary, PW Inc); Martha Bracken (Office
Manager); Munir Peter Reynolds (Interim Executive Director, Peaceworks Inc)

Newly elected Board members (not present): Allaudin Sandy Hill; Kabir Stuart
McKinnon; Halima Sussman; Maitreya Jon Stevens

Agenda

Invocation, greeting, breathing together

1. Review agenda; approve 25 August telecon minutes
2. Announcement to Advisory Council re Annual Meeting
3. Board of Directors
4. Possible Discussion of Items to Pass on to New BOD
5. Farewells
6. Next Telecon Date

For Later Consideration:

1. \$50K money market account matures in October; what to do with that money?
2. PW-NA's further contribution to Saadi/Kamae fund

Away from Email:

Sky Majida is away 25 September – 12 October, approximately.

Other Position/Address Changes:

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Munir has been elected to the position of interim Director of Peaceworks. Please add him to your email list: peter@onenessproject.com

Jena Tara, the regional networker and international council member from New Zealand has stepped down; please take her off your lists.

The new Regnet and IC member from New Zealand is Sally Platt; please add her to your lists: sally4peace@gmail.com Welcome Sally!

Minutes

1. Review Agenda; approve 22 August Telecon Minutes

BOD reviewed the agenda and proceeded as the agenda is listed above.

Nuria moves that the minutes of the 25 August telecon be approved for distribution once the dates for the international telecons are set; Darvesha seconds. Passes unanimously (Yaqin absent).

2. Announcement to Advisory Council re Annual Meeting

Sky Majida sent a notice out to the Advisory Council announcing a postponement of the annual meeting and assuring the AC that the meeting would be announced two months prior to the actual date.

3. Board of Directors

The nominating committee has presented the proposed slate of new directors:

Darvesha Victoria MacDonald (Silver City, NM, USA)
Allaudin Sandy Hill (Nelson, British Columbia, Canada)
Kabir Stuart McKinnon (Nelson, British Columbia, Canada)
Halima Sussman (Cambridge, MA, USA)
Maitreya Jon Stevens (New Lebanon, NY, USA)

Nuria moves that this slate be accepted and that these new directors be elected to the Board; as part of the vote the current Board members (except Darvesha) will resign. Darvesha seconds. After discussion (below), the motion passes unanimously.

Yaqin appreciates the past process of Board trainees and a buddy system, and yet also recognizes that this is a new situation and that kind of trainee period may not be necessary. He is comfortable with this process.

Farishta has mixed feelings about this process, but admits that it is “water under the bridge” at this point. She feels there is a steep learning curve for a new Board and she is not sure how quickly this new Board can come up to speed. She is also concerned about the unsustainability of the financial situation.

Munir agrees; the current organizational and financial situation is unsure and it is time for a major change. Talking with the regions and getting this new direction underway is of prime importance. He explains that he likes to work with a Board through a committee system; each director will be asked to chair one committee and serve on another, and it is possible that other people will be brought in to serve on those

committees as well.

The Unity Council report is appended to last month's minutes (just approved for distribution), and will be announced through dancingpeace and posted on the Unity Council website. Telecons with the geographic regions are being scheduled now so that the worldwide community can review the recommendations and give input.

The priorities for the rest of this year include what to do with Pubs, getting the new website online, staffing (which will stay in place as is through the end of the year), and preparing for the new year in terms of budget, policy, staffing, operations, etc.

Munir will be working with the members of the current Board as advisors, and hopes to schedule an informal telecon with both Boards, to ensure that both Boards are comfortable with the transition.

Munir has discussed different individuals on this slate of Directors with Pir Shabda Kahn, Murshid Saadi Neil Douglas-Kltoz, Murshid Wali Ali Meyer and [Murshida???] Gita Onnen, and has been cognizant of their positive input. He feels the baton is being passed to a capable, creative group who understands what this work is all about, even if they don't have all the historical details yet.

Sandy Hill has helped Oneness Project with Board training and their listening process, making sure everyone is being heard, with a lot of humor and lightness. Because of his Dance and Aramaic work he has a profound in-depth understanding of the spiritual depth of this path.

Kabir has years of experience with the University of Calgary and has become a great Dance leader; he and his partner hold the Dances together in the Nelson area; he brings a lot of experience to the fields of staffing and re-formation as we move through this process.

Maitreya will help us bridge to the younger generation; he has been on the Board at his school and so understands Board work to some extent. He is also a Dance leader of the younger generation and will be invaluable in bringing that perspective as the new website goes on line.

Halima danced with Murshid SAM, has been a Dance leader/mentor and Sufi teacher for many years, and has a strong background as a psychologist; she was the Chair of the UC and kept her eye on that, and also brings a strong aesthetic sense to this work.

Nuria knows these people, and feels that they have skill and strength, and is quite comfortable with passing the baton to them, especially with the support of the staff and the soon-to-be retired Board. This Board has done what it said it would do and it is time to pass the torch.

4. Discussion of Items to Pass to New Board

Nuria wonders if it would be appropriate to discuss these with the new BOD during an informal telecon. Munir says that the new Board will work in committees, so the whole Board does not need to discuss all of these items. He would rather the joint conversation be about our hopes and dreams for the future of the network. The "work" issues (see 25 August telecon minutes for details) will be handled through different avenues, and with varying priority. Board is fine with that.

5. Farewells

Munir expresses great gratitude to the current Board. Nuria came on to “a house on fire”; it’s been a hard road and she has done an excellent job. Farishta came back onto the Board, asking good questions and bringing a historical perspective to this process. Darvesha has a vision for where the MTG is going and how the mentor-mentee relationship needs to be strengthened for Dance leaders and the future; she has so much to offer and he hopes she will be President of the Board for a long time. Yaqin has been a steady presence and got the accounting moved over to QuickBooks, which has made a huge difference in tracking the finances.

Munir thanks the now-retired Board for holding hands and trusting the process by voting as they have done. When good people come together to get things done, good things get done. The next step is to canvass the community and see what their thoughts are.

Nuria thanks everyone for serving with her and for the unique perspective of each individual offered while serving on this board. This Board worked together to move forward, and got the job done they needed to do.

*Oh Thou, who art the Perfection of Love, Harmony and Beauty,
The Lord of Heaven and Earth,
Open our hearts, that we may hear Thy voice,
Which constantly cometh from within.
Disclose to us Thy Divine Light,
Which is hidden in our souls,
That we may know and understand life better.
Most merciful and compassionate God,
Give us Thy great goodness;
Teach us Thy loving forgiveness;
Raise us above the distinctions and differences which divide;
Send us the peace of Thy divine spirit;
And unite us all in Thy Perfect Being.*

Amin

6. Next Telecon

Tuesday, 29 September, 2 p.m. Pacific/Arizona time