

Friends of Niños Adelante Board Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2014

Welcome and Call to Order by President Steve Leighton. In attendance; Albright, Culligan, Ellis, Moe, Schaye, Tullos, Wenrich and guest Claudia Shea. Absent; Draving, Lindblom, Neal, Romaine and Rose.

Approval of Minutes of Feb 6,2014 meeting as written. Motion to accept, Wenrich Second, Ellis-- passed

Nominations and Elections Leighton opened nominations for the vacant Directors position. Nominating committee chair Albright placed Claudia Shea in nomination. There being no additional nominations a motion by Ellis to close, second by Moe -- passed. Move to elect Shea to 1 year term by Albright, second Moe -- passed

Old Business

Financial Review Culligan presented a Balance sheet and a P&L for our fiscal year ending March 31, 2014 with comment that our financial position is healthy. A question and short discussion about the absence of the current use of a CD instrument concluded the rates of return are too low to be worth the effort. Move to accept financial reports as presented Albright, second, Moe -- passed

February Benefit Dinner Leighton reported he has investigated several possible new venues/purveyors for this event in an effort to provide variety and most importantly remove the burden associated with staging the event from Jose. Jose will never admit it but the combination of organizing the Student Breakfasts, catering to February's crush of Sponsors, hosting his traditional luncheon plus all the miscellaneous activities taking place during that period is simply too much. The current front runner for next year's event is the Ixtapa Palace.

Newsletter In Lindblom's absence there was no specific information about the Newsletter. Directors were encouraged to prepare short biographic sketches and forward them along with any other Newsletter information to Lindblom.

Irene Sheahen and other New Scholarships Albright reported the Irene Sheahen fund balance is in good shape. As reported at the Feb meeting there are no eligible candidates for the Irene Sheahen S this year. This is due in part to the small graduating class. The first Irene S award winner, Maria de Jesus is graduating this year from UNAM. There are two new scholarship offerings thanks to several generous sponsors. Mike & Kathy Gallagher are funding a \$6000 four year scholarship patterned after the Irene S. It is offered this year on a exception basis to include GPAs of 9.0 and above. The Gallagher's have expressed the desire to continue with additional scholarships in future years but returning to the 9.3 GPA requirement. Mabeth and Bill Sanderson are funding a \$10,000 five year scholarships specifically for Engineering students. They too have indicated they will add additional scholarships in the future. Jose is spreading the word on these offerings to the students.

English Classes Ellis reported the Stella classes have 37 students in the original groups 1&2 plus a additional 8 new students forming another group beginning this year. The 8 are a mix of students from the Sponsor taught Feb classes and students recommended by sponsors. Por los

Niños has donated 36000 pesos to fund 15 of the students for the two four month class sessions. The remaining funding will come from individual sponsor donations and Friends of Niños. Next year Stella will not start classes until March to avoid conflict with the Sponsor taught Feb classes. The Sponsor taught classes will be divided so as to concentrate the advanced students under one instructor. Ellis requested he be kept informed of the students recommended for these classes and that sponsors interested in helping with the teaching effort should contact him. It was reported that next year's classes may be held at the Ejido offices. Ellis presented a budget of \$1000 for white boards, easels and a few teaching supplies. Motion by Albright to approve expenditure of up to \$1000 for named items, second Tullos -- passed

New Business

New School Year Update Albright reported there are currently 146 jr & sr high students and 76 college students. There are 14 college graduates this year (not included in the 76 above) and there are 17 high school graduates (still included in the 146 above). We are about in balance between sponsors and students at this time but it is too early to predict the impact of the graduations on sponsor retention.

Introduction of New Web Site Albright encouraged the directors to test the new site and return comments to Gary Nelson. The sponsor Forum and Pay Pal for Canadian sponsors are still under construction by Gary with hopes of functionality in these two areas soon. The plan is to release an introductory letter to the general sponsor base within the next two weeks. Several directors expressed accolades and thank you to Gary Nelson for his authorship and construction of the new site.

Next Meeting Date Tuesday September 23rd at 9:00 central

Motion to adjourn Tullos, second Schaye -- passed