

Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005, 4:00 EST.

Present: Chris Dyone, Shoreh Elhami, Ed Wells, Juna Papajorgji

---

These minutes are being written by Juna and unlike any other previous minutes have not been reviewed or written by Shoreh, who was preparing for her Kabul trip. We can always add hers or anybody' else's input later on.

## **0. Miscellaneous**

- Sanjiv Ghandi has resigned from the Committee due to other commitments, but he will remain a good resource and advocate for the GISCorps. There was discussion that Tom was also considering the same.
- Juna stated that she needed to re-state the reason why she had withdrawn from the URISA Board Candidacy. She said that she had been the first among the candidates to submit to Wendy the Statement and the Professional letters and when the time came for her to go take a picture, she was resisting it and was not doing it. She stated that it took her a while to get the courage and accept her limitations and acknowledge to herself that she had over-committed by saying YES when asked to join the Board. Ed was very supportive and everybody shared their stories about doing things when you are ready to.

## **1. GC Legal Matters**

The volunteer release form was discussed. Chris had not received the lawyers' form from Juna, who promised to re-send it to her within that day. She did and she also sent Chris the email address of the pro-bono lawyer she had been working with, in case the URISA lawyer had any questions. Chris would rectify the form with the URISA lawyer.

## **2. Projects**

A brief report on each of the on going project was done. Shoreh had talked over the phone with one of the VVAF volunteers and brought some insight from the teams work in the field. All appeared to have been gone well. The Seeds progress was discussed and the some remarks on the Equador project were made, which seems to be going, but not quite yet there. Shoreh also talked at length on her plans for the Afghanistan mission and an opportunity to connect with an ICMA representative while in Kabul. By the time these minutes are being written she has landed in Tehran and was notified that her luggage was lost along with all of her clothes.

## **3. Finances**

Chris gave a report on expenditures and revenues.

## **4. Web**

Juna gave a brief overview of the four directions in which she had been working with the site, such as content update, maps, photos and other materials additions, an automatic update of the dbase with info from the individual volunteer on nationality and or residence, the interactive global map with missions and volunteer residences, which info she collected via an online survey a while ago. She re-iterated that she has chosen an OS solution for the interactive map.

## 5. Report from the GSDI Conference in Cairo

On a personal investment Juna attended the GSDI conference in Cairo and she told the committee that during the conference she had the opportunity to report on the GISCorps activities to one of their committees but also to brainstorm and discuss with them potential collaboration and cooperation avenues. She also let the committee know that she had made a proposal to the GSDI to incorporate the GISCorps' contribution as an in kind match in their International Small Grants Program. They had liked the idea a lot, and it seems that the partnership between the GISCorps and the GSDI on this grant would happen. Both Ed and Shoreh thought that this was an excellent idea and an excellent opportunity for URISA to strengthen its partnerships with sister associations. Juna also insisted that in her view, this would bring an easy steady stream of projects for the GISCorps along with the opportunity to contribute to the Global Spatial Infrastructure and that she saw this effort as a win win for all parties involved.

## 6. Other

- The ESRI conference preparations were discussed. Shoreh had talked to each of the mission representatives so that each could prepare a poster map, following a decision made between her and Juna on this. The idea is to create a map display corner where we show a poster for each mission and a poster for GC as an organization. It was not decided who would do the latter. Between Shoreh and Juna that should not be a problem.
- The ESRI international auction was discussed. Juna explained what she heard in Cairo about it and everyone was excited.
- Juna proposed the committee to quantify the contribution of each of the GC mission. She had done a preliminary assessment and by the time these minutes are written she has already conducted the survey and prepared a more detailed assessment. The result is that the 3 missions conducted so far have contributed a value of at least \$80,000 without considering operational costs which would amount to half of that value.
- Juna asked the committee to stop implementing any new projects till the end of the year and in stead focus attention to the strengthening of the GC as an initiative under URISA. This would provide for a more effective but also safer way to accomplish things. Ed and Shoreh both agreed and the conversation shifted towards strengthening and re-designing the committee, since Ed might be obliged to leave now that the constituency has trusted him with the presidency. It was agreed upon that perhaps in Kansas some face to face meetings should happen.