

February 17, 2004, 3 - 4:15 PM Geo-Corps Core Committee Forth Conference Call

Participants: Shoreh Elhami, Ed Wells, Juna Papajorgji, and Wendy Francis

### 1. Strategic Plan

Board Comments:

Wendy reported that the Board liked the Strategic Plan overall and that she would get back with us with the Board's minutes so that we can incorporate their comments into our Strategic Plan prior to finalizing it.

Shoreh asked whether we should break the SP in parts or have it altogether as one document in the website. Juna suggested to have both, the relevant parts accessible by separate links and the whole document as one. Shoreh then volunteered to split the final SP in the web section of the twiki (using as much work as Martha has already done there) and then notify everyone for review, prior to incorporating it on the web.

### 2. Operational Plan

Research on other models

Juna reported on Citizens Development Corps.

Shoreh reported on International Volunteer Programs Association.

Shoreh volunteered to work on the Global Net-Corps.

Juna volunteered to work on the Net-Corps.

See attached documents for each research.

Shoreh mentioned that the IVPA, has a very rich 'How to volunteer' page and it was decided that we should link at that, after obtaining their permission. Shoreh will contact them.

Adoption of GC operational model

It was decided to make a decision on this based on reports on the remaining organizations and everyone's final vote.

### 3. Name Change

Ed suggested the name Global Geo-Corps. Shoreh and Juna and Wendy liked it, since it preserves the Geo-Corps part intact. It was decided to make a decision on this based on everyone's vote.

Shoreh asked for the cost implications of the name change. Wendy reported that the need could be in two-folds: the re-design of the logo and the research and registration of the new name. Both Juna and Shoreh, offered to volunteer the re-design work pro bono so that we could only spend money for the registration. Wendy will investigate the cost of the registration and will report back to the committee.

#### 4. Web Update

Juna gave an update on the web progress. She had emailed everyone a login and password to get on the admin side. All the volunteers and friends of GC are now accessible on the admin side with their resumes hyperlinked. She reported that the new on line form that feeds the server database is almost done, but needs refinement and also needs to be linked to the database. She reported that for long-term sustainability issues, the GC web site has been designed to use PHP and mySQL, both OS independent and free products. She will send everyone his or her own login and password as soon as the form is ready. She also asked everyone to spend some time thereafter and play with the interface so that we could improve it.

#### 5. CC's structure

Shoreh suggested that we look into organizing ourselves better internally. We recognize that we are unlike other committees, however, we could use a structure similar to others. Wendy suggested that it should be organized as a committee and then have sub-committees for certain tasks as they come along. Ed agreed.

Ed proposed Shoreh as the chair and Juna as the co-chair, Barb to track the finances. Juna proposed to safeguard this process and write these 'rules' as part of the operation plan of GC. Ed also proposed that the core committee could form task forces on an as needed basis and dissolve them upon completion of their tasks.

Ed suggested a three years term for the CC members.

#### 6. Other

On behalf of Martha, Ed reported on the ICMA initiative on the three projects. ICMA wants to team up with URISA. Martha and Dan met with them in DC, and during the meeting ICMA said that they were thrilled with the Geo-Corps initiative. They already send teams to developing countries to advise the local governments on various projects on a short-term basis and then they visit them back in a few months to observe the results of their recommendations. Their team would need a GC person. Ed will ask Martha to prepare a report on ICMA's possible projects, their funding structure (who will pay for the volunteer's costs, etc.) and email it to CC members. The project is extremely exciting and the group felt that accompanying ICMA in their next projects (as our first pilot projects) and in the near future would be wonderful.

Wendy mentioned that Jack Dangermond had asked URISA to have a corner for Geo-Corps in San Diego in July, just as for the GISCI. Everyone thought that this was great news.

-- By Shoreh & Juna - 19 Feb 2004