

Friends of Eswatini - Board Meeting Summary - April 1, 2020

Attending were: John and Patty von Reyn, Scott Lewis, Melissa Weber Horton, Laura Reynolds, Brandon Bobisink, Tom Gutnick and Jack Conrad.

Our meeting was conducted by Zoom Videoconference, sponsored by Laura and Brandon. This summary was prepared by John and emailed to Board members on 4/2/2020.

- **Treasury Report.** Currently we have \$4237 in our treasury. More detail on 2019 expenditures is in the financial report on the new FoE website.
- **Website Status.** Should be launched in about two weeks. We're waiting on getting email accounts setup. New site is administered and supported by NPCA. It is more user-friendly than our current website and includes built-in membership and fundraising features, and will allow for quicker posting of news relevant to the FoE community.
- **Eswatini Evacuated PCVs.** Melissa briefed us on her contacts with Peace Corps about the evacuated PCVs, including NPCA's establishment of a Benevolent fund to assist newly returned PCVs with issues they may have. Still early to determine how we can assist. Melissa will continue to monitor the situation. Hope to get a count on how many PCVs were evacuated from Eswatini. John will post a notice on the Facebook site addressed to evacuated PCVs and request suggestions on how we may be able to assist. General dismay expressed about the pulling of PCVs world-wide from their posts and ultimate effect if may have on Peace Corps. Will need to continue to follow and see what we can do to advocate on behalf of the Peace Corps.
- **Covid-19 Assistance to Eswatini.** General discussion on groups that may be able to provide assistance to Swazis affected by Covid-19. Groups specifically mentioned were: Luke Commission, Clinton Health Access Initiative, ICAP, Doctors Without Borders, US AID, Young Heroes, Baylor College of Medicine, and Caritas. Laura and Brandon, Melissa and Jack will provide more information on these groups and make recommendations on which groups to fund. We will then make a determination on which groups would best benefit from a donation from FoE. We will publicize donations and provide information on the FoE site and other social media sites with recommendations on donating to these organizations. We will include a donation button on any emails we send out to encourage contributions.
- **Social Media Sites.** Laura mentioned our new website would benefit by adding links to Eswatini PCV social media sites, such as on Facebook and Instagram. She will provide more information on this so we can add the links.
- **Peace Corps 60th Anniversary.** No dates currently set for this. Assume it will be Fall 2021. FoE will be planning reunion events for this.