**Minutes**

**SICA USA Monthly Board Meeting**

Sunday, January 17, 2021

5pm – 5:15pm PST

Present:

Paul Nelson, Chair

Sofia Sexton, Member

Ralph Davila, Member

Lawrence Pevec, Member

Michal Brownell, National Helper Liaison

Jim Dehner, National Helper Liaison

Sanderson Morgan, Guest

Susanna Rosenthal, Guest

Lauren Woodward Stanley, Guest

 Absent: Hamilton Cheifetz

A transcription was made of the recorded Zoom proceedings by the National Office and sent to Lawrence

for editing into minutes.

1. **Latihan**
2. **Introductions**
3. **Appointment of Lawrence to process meeting minutes.**
4. **Acting Treasurer’s Report**

**Ralph:**

 *Presented a year-end financial report.*

All funds have been transferred from Wells-Fargo acct to Boeing Employee’s Credit Union. About $6000 total in the accounts. After missed filings

**Paul:**

Ralph took over the finances from a different person. So we're trying to do a little bit of forensics, IRS fee of $275 for late filing. Wants to create 990 form at year end.

**Lawrence:**

I never heard about the $400 donation to the Memories of Bapak project. As director I should have gotten notified. Also, I haven’t been reimbursed for my expenses for the project, nor an acknowledgement of her having received it.

**Ralph:**

It was sent to the archives. (Lawrence will check with Daniela about those funds)

**Ralph:**

*Presented a draft of a proposed budget for 2021 and goals for fundraising in 2021.*

 He took the average from the previous four years and using the Grant Guidelines

proposed we use $20,000 as our fundraising target. We will have $6000 - $7000 to carry over to the next year.

**Paul:**

Agreed with this procedure and the results based on his experience with SPLAB.

“I think the work Ralph has done here is outstanding” Paul wants to have funds available to send the board to the next National Congress and Menuka and have networking and programs there.

**Ralph:**

Expressed concern whether this is realistic or if we should look at other ways of establishing a budget.

**Sanderson:**

Commented that he is too new to SICA know if the numbers are realistic.

**Paul:**

Suggested Sanderson and Ralph meet to go over the budget between now and the next meeting to get clarity.

**Paul:** Screen shared and read aloud the Grant Guidelines document. The document was shared via the chat. No other action taken re the Guidelines.

**Susanna:**

 Susanna screen shared photos, charts and a website regarding the *GoPlay Project*.

 She told the story of how she found the property; 19 acres with modern facilities once owned by Jim Davis (Garfield). She did a virtual tour for the benefit of the board and described all the potential activities possible in the spaces.

 Susanna is proposing that her project be adopted by SICA and be placed under the SICA 501c3

 umbrella as fiscal agent until she can establish a focused purpose and get her own designation as a non-profit.

 The purpose is so that she can begin writing grant proposals to acquire funds to move the project to that state. Her plan is to develop a school, performance spaces and provide facilities for cultural events.

**Lawrence:**

 Asked about the use of the facility for housing the WSA/USA Archives which he thought was one of the original ideas since it has sophisticated archiving equipment.

**Susanna:**

 Described how she had presented that possibility to the National Committee and nothing happened. The National Committee favored the Amani Subud House for the archives even though the cost (in her opinion) would be much greater. She expressed her disappointment that that decision was made.

*“And so, I would love for it to be there if there's any space for it to be reconsidered. I'm holding out that hope.”*

**Lawrence:**

Suggested Susanna join the board of SICA. He wants to support Susanna’s efforts and provide the non-profit umbrella.

**Paul:**

Suggested that it would be a great place for a cultural convention and where we could hold the cultural conversation initiated by Lawrence. Further he suggested that some testing around the matter could be arranged.

**Susanna:**

Closed her presentation with the fact that the property was appraised at $1.5 million and listed for $500K. She couldn’t say no. She will continue looking for people who are interested in joining her development team.

**Paul:**

 Paul will set up a testing session via Zoom with the National Helpers and Board.

**Paul:**

Talked about the website remake and reported that Andrew Morgan is revamping for both function and visual appeal. Lawrence had prepared comments regarding the aesthetic problems of the site to Andrew.

**Lawrence:**

 Commented that he didn’t want to be the only one who disliked the look and function of the site.

**Ralph:**

 Agreed that the sight needed a remake.

**Paul:**

*“My issue with the site is that the slideshow was good when it first came out, you know, but I think what's important is the stories and as we begin to solidify our blogging, and it's my hope that all board members will begin to start creating posts.”*

Doesn’t want to spend time doing WordPress tutorials now that he is chairman. He wants everyone to focus on the fundraising effort in February.

He looked for a webmaster for the site but so far no one has responded.

**Paul:**

Was reminded that we need to hear from Sanderson regarding the testing for his inclusion to the board. He and Jim described the great feeling they had regarding it.

**Lawrence:**

 **Moved that Sanderson be approved as a board member.**

**Sophia:**

 **Seconded the motion.**

 **Vote taken: Yeas - 4, Nays - 0. Results are unanimous that Sanderson join the board of Directors.**

**Lawrence:**

Talked about how he came to write the article for the SUSA newsletter; *Is Subud Culture a Thing?* and hoped it would stimulate more conversation around our understanding of Bapak’s take on culture and our own contributions to our individual cultures.

**Paul:**

Paul wants to include in the minutes a call for people to write about their own experiences with various aspects of culture; cooking, building, endless possibilities.

**Sophia:**

Suggested she wants to do a blog piece on the evolution of the advertising industry and how it reflects our current culture.

**Lawrence:**

“*I just wanted to reiterate that we need to tie it back to the Subud cultural experience, our own interpretation, our own vision, our own perspectives, tied back into Subud. One idea in an article like that would be to interview someone like Rashad Pollard, who has been in advertising his entire career.”*

**Sanderson:**

Expanded the conversation from his perspective of what our audience wants to know about artists. and of being associated with museums during his long career.

**Paul:**

Called for every board member to comment on Lawrence’s article and be prepared to have it in the next couple of weeks. He wants to have a conversation at National Congresses that include hands-on creative activities around the exploration of culture.

**Lawrence:**

Asked that every board member comment on the blog posts in the comments field at the end of the page. If we don’t provide feedback people won’t continue to post or stay engaged with us.

**Paul:**

 *“We need to get people off FaceBook and onto our site for these conversations”.*

**Lauren:**

Commented on how she is standing back, listening, and trying to see how she can contribute to the SICA world.

**Paul:**

 Talks about how he came to the SICA organization and helped develop it beyond its former function.

He is excited about the possibilities. Wants broader diversity including gay people to participate and feel at home in SICA. He wants to form committees that work outside the monthly meetings on developing the structure. We need people to take on specific jobs like secretary, treasurer, etc.

**Lawrence:**

Talked about being energized toward SICA after working on the *Memories of Bapak, The Jerry Chalem* *Interview Project* for two years.

**Paul:**

 Adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm PST

Submitted for editing by Lawrence Pevec

February 1, 2021