

Shaw Islanders, Inc. Board Meeting

04/05/04

Members present at the meeting: Vreni Borner, Carole Davis, Dell Laursen, Allison Lengyel, Roman Miller, Jane Baier-Nelson, Al Wilding, Ron Woodard, Dorothy Powell, Doris Oliver, Willie Williams.

Absent and excused: Cyrus Field, Mary Reeve, Chad Swanson, Sandy Walker.

Meeting was called to order at 4:01pm. Jane and Do provided refreshments.

First VP Report (Doris Oliver):

1. Doris has formed a **committee** to come up with suggestions for programs and education. To date the committee consists of Doris, Barbara Dretske and Sandy Walker.

2. **Opera** has been planned for May 29th at 2PM followed by an all-island potluck dinner. A group of Russian opera singers will perform excerpts from various operas. Jack Lynch who spearheaded this idea is requesting the board's assistance in paying for transportation and providing sleeping arrangements. There was unanimous board support.

3. The Shakespeare **Much Ado About Nothing** production at the Community Building will be August 1, with a potluck preceding or following. Stephanie Buffum proposed that Shaw Inc. jointly support this program with Friends of the San Juans. (The Friends brought Romeo and Juliet to Shaw last summer and was very well received) Stephanie will provide housing but said that the actor's group needs \$400. It was unclear whether this would be Shaw Inc.'s share or split with Friends. The board unanimously supported the general idea. Details will be worked out later.

4. **Other ideas** for programs and events were presented, including classes for crafts and fine arts, a potluck for family game night, a Ben Nevis Group concert, and a tea with funny hats. The board supported these ideas. The idea of quarterly meetings was also suggested by the committee but was not discussed by the board at this meeting.

Second VP Report (Roman Miller):

There was nothing to report this month.

Treasurer's Report (Willie Williams):

1. **Monthly report** (see attached) shows income and expenses from January to April 2004: Income to date \$4,100, with budgeted income for year total of \$5,800; Expenses to date \$2,288.79 with budgeted expenses for year total of \$14,700. We are ahead of budget in terms of income thus far this year.

2. The **Charles Schwab Account** was discussed. Willie is in the process of getting all of the necessary signatures from past and proposed signers on the account so that she can get specific information on the account. Apparently this account was originally opened so that we could receive stock donations. However, it is relatively expensive to maintain and loses money each year. We will re-visit the issue of keeping, reducing or closing this account once Willie has more information.

3. **Audit** - Jaime Smith performed an audit of the Shaw Inc records and sent a letter with the results and various suggestions. This will be attached to formal copy of minutes. He stressed the need for consistency of reporting from year to year, compliance with tax laws, hiring a CPA as he sees the treasurer job as stretching the limits of volunteerism, receiving professional consultation for tax-exempt issues, and the possibility of Shaw Inc. acquiring a lap top computer and commercial accounting program.

4. Willie has contacted a **CPA tax consultant** Rick Anda on Orcas who has agreed to assist us once this year's tax season is over. He also provides assistance to the Shaw Library and is apparently very familiar with non-profit organizations. We will consult with him regarding the concerns expressed by the audit, as well as our ongoing questions about building use.

Jaime's audit and thoughtful and well-written letter were much appreciated by the board. It was decided to present him with a framed Cameron poster to thank him for a job well done.

5. All forms have been completed and submitted with fees for the reinstatement of our **corporate status** with the State of Washington. Reinstatement is expected shortly.

6. All forms have been completed and submitted with fees for reinstatement of our **tax-exempt status**. This reinstatement is expected within 30-60 days.

7. We currently have an outstanding **property tax bill** from last year and a new one for this year. After talking with the County, it appears that we have several options: pay the bill and seek reimbursement once our tax-exempt status is reinstated or not pay the bill and assume that our application will be successful. As there is no reason to suspect that we will not once again receive our tax-exempt status, a motion was carried to hold off paying the property tax bill at this time. It was suggested that we send a letter to the County explaining our reasons for not paying and letting them know that our reinstatement is pending.

Correspondence:

1. There was a letter from Lola Deane about monies received from the sale of **books** from the Storey Estate and Robin Lowe, both of whom requested that proceeds be donated to Shaw, Inc. To date this has equaled \$193.

2. Letters were received from Cherie Christensen and Diana Wisen thanking Shaw, Inc. for recognition of their **gardening** efforts at the Community Building and the gift certificates. Cherie's letter also informed us that a start from a heritage lilac that Beverly Graham brought to the island in the 1960s would be planted soon.

3. Dorothy was asked to write **thank you letters** to Ray Glaze (website), Jaime Smith (audit), The Storey Estate (book sale donation), and Robin Lowe (book sale donation).

Old Business:

1. **Goodbye** for the nuns. Al followed through with getting a Cameron poster framed for each of the departing nuns. Vreni Borner will consult with the Hermanns to choose a restaurant in Portland for a \$200 gift certificate.

Despite the nun's reluctance for fanfare, the need for islanders to have a chance to say thank you and good-bye was expressed. As a possible compromise, it was suggested that we might have an informal all-island gathering at the ferry dock for a group photo with the nuns. Jane will pursue this idea and we will discuss it at the meeting next month.

2. Nothing has happened yet regarding the **parking lot** re-surfacing. Carole will report when she has heard from Jon Shannon about a meeting with the Department of Public Works and the Fire Department regarding a joint venture.

3. Ron reported that building **microphones** appear to be adequate but just need to be organized, labeled and made more user-friendly. He and Cy will meet in two weeks to accomplish this.

4. Nursery **gift certificates** for the gardening volunteers at the Community Building were obtained and distributed with thank you letters.

5. New **building use policy** and fee forms have been given to Andy. Vreni will monitor use and fees on a monthly basis.

6. Al needs a co-chair for the 4th of July **barbecue**, as well as a crew. He will be gone on the actual day so it is essential that he find someone to co-coordinate this event. The board made several suggestions as to whom he might contact.

New Business:

1. In anticipation of our fall annual letter, elections and mailing of the directory, we need to update our **mailing data- base**. Cy agreed to compare the county property owner list we received with our own database. Once completed, it will be submitted to Eric to include on his extensive Shaw database.

2. **Break dancing exhibition** - Carole recently hosted Tony Sosa from Skagit County to demonstrate salsa making to her Spanish classes. In addition to being a DJ for a Hispanic radio station and working with chemical dependencies, he supports prevention programs for Chicano youth in the form of break dancing lessons and competitions. Two young men demonstrated their skills for the students at Shaw School. He expressed a willingness to return to Shaw with his whole group for an all community exhibition. Details will follow.

3. **Performance Risers** were donated to Shaw, Inc. by the Franciscans. They are currently stacked in the coat closet and outside against the side of the building. They need to be stored in the shed out of the way and out of the weather. Roman with help from Del agreed to handle this.

4. **Schedule for Fourth of July** - We worked out a tentative schedule. Market Day, Art Exhibit, Barbecue, Raffles, Fish Pond and Dance on Saturday; Parade, Potluck and Baseball Game on Sunday; Sail/Row/Paddle Regatta on Monday. There was concern expressed about people having to leave on Monday missing the very successful regatta. Allison will check on holiday dates and work schedules and get back to the board.

5. **The Baseball game** will again be coordinated by Del who has arranged the field. This event has been extremely popular in the past two years and a great success!

6. **The Dance** will be coordinated by Vreni. She is still looking for a DJ. Motion carried to give the dance a \$500 budget for music and refreshments. Donated refreshments and beverages will also be sought.

7. Carole suggested a **Shaw, Inc. Booth** at Market Day. Purpose would be to give information about what Shaw, Inc. supports, accept memberships, update our data-base, hand out remaining directories from last year, and display and sell Coonie Cameron's Shaw Inc. posters. Mary Reeve agreed to be in charge of this with Dorothy Powell assisting.

8. **Raffles** will be coordinated by Jane Baier-Nelson with assistance from Deanna Shannon. A combination of about 15 items was suggested, with some members preferring a preponderance of the ever-popular dinners/picnics/experiences. Board members are encouraged to contact Jane if they have ideas. Jane will also be soliciting ideas from elsewhere in the community.

9. The **Go Fish Pond** will be arranged by Jody Schmidt.

10. It was announced that we still need an over-all **Chair for Market Day**. Doris agreed to take this position with assistance from Willie.

11. **Damage to UW Preserve Fields**. Al Wilding reported that there has been extensive and repeated driving damage to the fields at the University of Washington Preserve. He brought pictures to show the extent of the damage. He wants the community to be aware of this in case anyone has information. He stated that his preference is to handle this informally rather than through the prosecutor's office. The board suggested that he post the pictures at the kiosk.

12. Carole has been working with Ray Glaze to update our **website**, with information about what we support, a list of current board members, monthly minutes, building policies, etc. <http://www.shawislanders.org>

13. The resource portion of the **Shaw Island Directory** needs to be updated. Allison agreed to edit and collect the updated information to be included in next year's edition. It is anticipated that the directory will be mailed with the annual letter membership/ballot forms in the fall or included with thank you letters after membership forms and donations have been received. Some expressed that the directory should go out to everyone in our database, not just members.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Davis from notes taken by
Allison Lengyel.