Friends of Ninos Adelante Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2013

- Welcome and Call to Order of Meeting/Attendance Steve Leighton

Absent from the meeting: Bob and Barb Neal, Chris Rose.

- Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (May 15, 2013) Janie Robins

No comments or changes. Minutes accepted by Albright and seconded by Romain.

-Old Business

- Financial Review/Update/Tax filing Tom Culligan

Albright and Culligan will file the Minnesota and US taxes before the end of the year. There are no taxes due, only the filing procedure. Albright made a motion for the taxes to be filed and seconded by Ellis.

- Fall Fundraiser Update Chris Rose

In Rose’s absence, Leighton reports that the fall appeal letter is being finalized and will be mailed within the next couple of weeks. There was some discussion as to why email distribution is not the first choice; A much better response is reported using postal mail. Leighton recommended each board member distribute a copy of the appeal letter to friends that may be willing to donate to Ninos Adelante.

- Newsletter Update Leif Lindblom

Lindblom reports that some board members were asked to give a brief synopsis of themselves for the next Newsletter and in addition, the President’s letter is needed. Tentatively, the newsletter will be emailed before the end of September. There was some discussion as to using postal mail, but it was decided to be too expensive; therefore, the newsletter will be distributed only using email and posted on our website.

- Irene Sheehan Scholarship Update Steve Leighton

The student, Nelson, is the best and only candidate. There were two other potential candidates, but both have chosen to reside in Zihuatanejo. Neither actually applied.

- Update on English Classes Tim Ellis

Albright discussed that the Class report was reviewed by him and Ellis.

Regarding the February classes, Lindblom is retiring this year with Mabeth Sanderson coming on board along with, hopefully, Yarnell staying on. A core group of generally 20 students from year to year allows identification of the best ranking and with the best attendance to be chosen for the “paid” classes. In Yarnell’s absence, Ellis reported she had concerns with overlap.

There was discussion of an email sent regarding $1,500 paid by Por Los Ninos for paid classes. They actually paid $3,000. The cost for the two groups for September through December should be $3500 with $500 paid out of Friends of Ninos Adelante. The $500 comes from the $4,000 collected from the appeal to the sponsors of the students in the paid English Classes. In addition, from conversation with Bustos, the spring classes (Feb –June for group 1 and April – July for the 2nd group) went well.  Finalizing, Friends of Ninos paid $500, Maryellen Jackson paid $500 and Por los Ninos paid $3,000 for these classes.

Having spent only $500 to date we should be in good shape to finish this year and have some left over to start next February classes.

Jose also suggested that the February classes be scheduled so that the students from the “paid” classes can be notified if they wish to attend. He feels there will be no conflict. The February teachers, Lindblom, Yarnell and Sanderson, will recruit their own group of students on beca days/weekends. In addition, Romain will begin recruiting students in mid January.

Finalizing, Ellis made a motion to continue sponsorship of “paid” classes with Albright seconding.

- New Business

Jose Bustos was recently treated for latent typhoid. Happily reported, his health has improved and he is doing much better.

- New School Year Update Bob Albright

220 sponsors with about 95% having paid their becas. Jose reported 227 students but some have dropped out. Carol Romain is looking for additional sponsors. Scholastic standards and GPA is on a 10 point scale and the students need to maintain an 8 or better.

Romain has been actively helping students write letters to sponsors. It is quite a task and we applaud her for her hard work. She is setting up a template which will help their letter writing skills. The original letter will be scanned and sent along with the template letter. Leighton suggested choosing some of these letters for the Newsletter. Carol agreed. There was also discussion to add some of these letters to the fundraising letter. Robins made a motion for this, with Albright seconding.

-Directors and Officers insurance Bob Albright

A prospective board member asked if this insurance is in place. It is not but Albright has done some investigating and reports it is about $1,500 per year. Leighton will try to get another quote. This issue is tabled for now.

-Date and time for the next meeting is February 16, 2014 at 12:00 noon directly after the Ninos Adelante Breakfast at the Fontan, Ixtapa, Mexico

Albright made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Moe.