



## Finlandia Foundation® Columbia-Pacific Chapter

Board of Directors Meeting  
May 16, 2010  
2:00 – 4:30  
Portland State University  
Cramer Hall  
Finnish Classroom

### **Board Members**

*Present:* Elisa Boynton, Dennis Usitalo, Jim Rinta, Seppo Saarinen, Jukka Perkiomaki, Dave Alford

*Absent:* Dirk Schulbach

*Quorum present?* Yes

The meeting started at 2:10 in the main hall since we didn't have a key for the room. The first item on the agenda was a discussion on how we conduct business, formal versus informal process. We voted 4 to 1 to conduct meetings informally.

Seppo also wanted board members to respond to his e-mails in a timely fashion. He wanted some form of response from members. Seppo desired that response be within 24 hours. Everyone agreed.

The last board meeting there was an issue with financial matters. After much discussion the board decided since we have input into the agenda, we will follow the agenda as outlined, the board agreed. Items brought to the board will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

The board will operate with electronic documentation only. Board members are asked to print their own copy of agenda. Dennis volunteered to run a few copies to have on hand. The agenda will be in a power point format so we can follow by looking at the screen. We will move toward a paperless trail. Documents will be sent out electronically to our membership.

Minutes from the first Board meeting were reviewed and corrections on items will be made. Dave Alford suggested the board ratify the minutes. Everyone agreed.

Seppo suggested the auditors check the final financial report, write a report on their findings with their approval or disapproval of the findings and sign off the report. The

auditors present their findings to the board. The board takes action if necessary and approves the report. Dave suggested the board have hard copies of the financial report available while they are discussing the auditors report. The findings will be shared at the annual meeting with the entire membership. Everyone agreed this would be an appropriate way to do business.

There was a brief review of the current financial statement showing our chapters accounting.

It was suggested that receipts needed to be given for dues etc... receipts should be given for everything. Seppo mentioned we should have multiple copy receipts to verify payments. Seppo asked Dave to talk with Dirk about this.

A decision to have our books audited for this year was discussed. It was suggested that Dirk should approach Kaino and Don Leetham to do the books for this past year. The financial report will come to the board and we will review the report and approve it. The elected auditors, Denver James and Eila Chisom will do the books for this current year. Dave volunteered to work with Dirk to get a procedure in place.

A letter should be sent out to introduce the new board. Dirk has the information regarding the dues notification. Dennis suggested sending out a form that would act as a receipt for membership already paid. We need to send out dues notices to all members.

Seppo has contacted Finlandia Foundation National. They indicated they will send out information with appropriate lead time. Seppo indicated he is on the mail list from Finlandia Foundation National. He will make sure we are all informed as to the content of information received.

Leena Riiker has a current electronic membership list. If she is willing to do the work we will have her continue keeping the records updated.

Seppo suggested we change our annual meeting date since we are not in sync with the National. We will have a discussion on changing the annual meeting at a later date. Dues will remain the same for the next year the board voted 6-0.

Seppo suggested sub teams; teams for events and teams for music activities. The question for us all is "How do we get others involved?" Seppo indicated he felt it was important to get the regular membership doing some of the work. It is not the intent that the board runs the chapter. Seppo said members feel better about being a part of FFCPC. Dennis was given the assignment of working on events.

Seppo proposed that we have 4 more board meeting before the end of the year: Proposed dates are 6/13, 8/22, 10/03, 11/21. Board members will submit dates they are available to attend. Sometime not all board members will be present.

**Scan Fair Breakfast:** We need to contact SHF to find out if we could set up a breakfast location. Dave said he would contact SHF to find out if it would be possible. Dave and Dennis will work together. Do we need a burner or two? What location? We want to attract people with Finnish cuisine...should we have a practice breakfast session? We need to consider other options...Dave will propose a practice location.... The board voted 6-0 to support this effort.

**Mid Summer Events:** We need to brand FFCPC so we can share info.... Ribbon Specialties charge a \$100 set up fee for nice signs or name badges. Dave will get a proposal together...Dave suggested working a booth in conjunction with the church or another Finnish group so people could share coverage. Breakfast for Mid Summer celebration could act as a trial run for the Scan Fair Breakfast. The board voted 6-0 to support the idea. Dave also suggested drinks with breakfast. Dave volunteered to coordinate with SHF. Dennis will check with Sandra Miller for information about food permits etc. Dennis will get help from the FFCPC organization.

**Pekka and Perttu Concert:** Are we going to support them? Since they are here for Mid Summer can we support another event? Seppo suggested we try to get Messiah Lutheran involved. \$12 dollar contribution was suggested but we might not be able to re-coop the cost. The board voted 6-0 not to pursue hosting **Pekka and Perttu**.

**Concerts:** The board discussed supporting musical groups and pulling together an event to have local Finnish musician put on a Finnish concert. We might possibly consider having it at Lincoln Hall. We need to promote FFCPC with some Finnish entertainers. We could combine with the church or SHF to support us. People who have enjoyed our events have indicated a desire to continue supporting our organization. We need to initiate some of these events. SHF has enjoyed supporting some of our groups but we need to also be the ones who are promoting the events. We need to cooperate and support each other. Why not plan on a concert for Finns? Maybe have an October event? We need to be aware of Scan Feast. Elisa will work on this.

**Other Events:** Seppo indicated he could give a presentation on the SISU trucks from the beginning through the first 50 years. Dave suggested hooking up with SHF and the Friday lecture series. Seppo wanted this to be a FFCPC event. Seppo indicated he could do another lecture on Nokia, from start to now. He will work on it.

**Fundraising:** There are things we can do and ways to generate funds. There are things we can do and should do for the Finnish community here. Dave suggested we contact Andrea Talonen at PGE Park and explore a Scandinavian night. Seppo indicated there is a push to change the wording from "Scandinavian" to "Nordic" so it would be more inclusive of Finland. There are possibilities for FFCPC to get involved with the Winter Hawks or Timbers. We should do a promotion or something with Andrea Talonen. Who will explore the opportunity? Work with SHF and do a promotion with the other national groups. Elisa mentioned a Finnish manager working at an Oregon City driving range. Elisa will get the information to Jukka.

Seppo wanted to get the board together so we can get to know each other better. We have to work on membership to grow. Elisa would like to have some youth members or youth representatives. Dave mentioned the possibility of transporting our youth by bus to Seattle and the Nordic Museum. Seppo indicated it was important for people to get together so they get to know each other and would be more willing to work together.

Elisa indicated FFCPC needed to have a certain number of events per year. Are we going to use the performer of the year? Seppo wanted to know how many events we need to do. The performer of the year won't work for us this year since the band would be coming to town in midweek and the board did not think that was a good option for a dance event. Dave suggested taking a bus to an outing qualified as an event.

SHF has a Friday night lecture on the first Friday of each month. Maybe for lectures we should have our own series and have SHF inviting their group to attend. We should plan the lectures for whatever night we can get the Finnish room. We should do our own presentations. The board voted 6-0 to have our own lecture series.

**Jaakko Tuominen Scholarship:** When this chapter was created the first board decided they wanted to start collecting money for the purpose of creating a fund. The fund is for sports medical research and is named the Jaakko Tuominen Scholarship. More information is needed to understand the current role of FFCPC. Satu Mikola is the one who pushed the scholarship idea through. It was suggested Seppo contact her to get a better understanding. Jukka shared that Satu was a good friend of Jaakko's widow and they came up with the idea of starting a chapter in honor of Jaakko. The expectation is that we continue working on the scholarship. That was the reason this chapter was founded. Finlandia Foundation National expects our chapter to have some type of scholarship opportunity. The scholarship needs to be promoted. Jukka said he would take information to the Finnish golf tournament. How do we get funds for the Jaakko Tuominen scholarship? Finlandia Foundation National manages the funds and would like the chapter to give \$50000 into the scholarship account. Dave suggested we work with PGE Park and whatever funds are raised go to the scholarship. We need to study this more. Jukka will get more information for our next meeting. It's a good idea for Finlandia Foundation National to have a sports scholarship.

Elisa is offering a string instrument studio for five different string instruments. She is interested in creating a music school. Elisa asked to be allowed to give a discount for FFCPC members and to promote the program in the newsletter. If the students are learning something about Finnish music the classes will meet one of our chapter objectives of promoting our heritage. Dave suggested in an effort to encourage young people, we should come up with an award recognizing their advancement in music. We could develop our own local Boris Sirpo Award. Dave suggested the chapter should sponsor and promote events for young people.

The meeting concluded with a quick review; Elisa liked that we were setting direction and the way we were going to learn to work together. Jukka liked the organizational out

line and format of the meetings. We covered a lot of territory and the pace of the meetings should increase as we get to know each other.

Seppo requested each member submit workable dates for the next four board meetings and Dave suggested we always include each other when we send responses. Seppo will send us all an updated e-mail list. Seppo wanted to know if the board wanted to be informed when he received information from Finlandia Foundation National. The board agreed it would good to be informed. Jukka suggested all members receive the information.

Seppo brought up the topic of a website. The board voted 6-0 to look into developing and looking at having a website for FFCPC. Seppo will pursue and share at the next meeting.

4:40 the meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Rinta