

Finlandia Foundation® Columbia-Pacific Chapter

**Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, April 3, 2011
3:00pm-4:30pm
Portland State University
Cramer Hall, Finnish Room**

Minutes

Board Present: Dave Alford, Greg Jacob, Dirk Schulbach, Anja Robinson, Cynthia Pannell, Katariina Lehtonen, Seppo Saarinen, Elisa Boynton [late arrival]
(*Quorum present*).

Absent: Jukka Perkiomaki, Jim Rinta, Andrea Tolonen.

Others Present: Pirjo Schulbach (Member).

Call to Order

President Seppo Saarinen called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes from the March 5, 2011 board meeting were not available for review and approval; and will therefore be addressed at a future meeting.

The President's Plan

Seppo reviewed the meeting agenda and then presented his 2011 FFCPC plan to the Board. The main points covered were:

- (1) Seppo's commitment to (a) be a team builder and leader, (b) build a strong team that effectively gets things done, and (c) have its members feel good about their individual contributions to FFCPC;
- (2) As a team, the Board will (a) share information between its members and the FFCPC membership, (b) make all decisions based on majority rule, (c) fulfill individual Board assignments, and (d) assist other team members, as needed;
- (3) The Board will (a) develop a realistic plan of activities and events for 2011, (b) share the plan with the membership, and (c) ask for additional input, involvement and contribution from all FFCPC members; and
- (4) Every member will be invited to make suggestions, get involved and help execute the 2011 FFCPC plan.

Board Member Floor

The floor was then turned over to the Directors to introduce themselves by sharing their background and prior experience with FFCPC, talk about their likes and dislikes about FFCPC events in which they have participated, and their areas of interest, contribution and commitment to the FFCPC.

Katariina Lehtonen expressed her vision on how FFCPC should help unite the Finnish-American community, both young and old, in Oregon and SW Washington. Katariina would like FFCPC activities to provide opportunities for service, inspiration, and help maintain connections between Finland and the United States, and, where possible, assist Finnish expatriates with issues no longer addressed by the Finnish Honorary Consulate since its abolishment last year.

Cynthia Pannell joined FFCPC shortly after returning to Portland from the East Coast. She has been involved in numerous Finnish-American events and organizations across the country. She would like to develop FFCPC's presence in the community by offering more activities and events of interest to both Finnish-Americans and Finnish expatriates and the general public. Cynthia serves as the FFCPC Secretary.

Anja Robinson recently returned to Portland after living in Astoria for a number of years. Anja originally came to the United States as an exchange student. She would like to get more involved in the Foundation and take advantage of the opportunities FFCPC has to offer.

Dirk Schulbach was asked to participate in FFCPC by previous Board members including Kaino Leetham. His current position as Treasurer is a logical fit since it followed his professional background in accounting.

Greg Jacob's mother was Finnish and he joined FFCPC three years ago. His activity with the Foundation has been a gradual evolution. With his PSU connections, he will be an asset to the completion of the Finnish Room high technology upgrade and other projects with the Foundation.

Dave Alford's activity with FFCPC was solidified, after numerous tries at being an "active member," when he was asked to chair the Finnish Room committee during its renovation period. He has subsequently served on various Board positions, including President. Dave is currently the Vice President.

Seppo Saarinen was also asked by Kaino Leetham to become involved with FFCPC a couple of years ago. His activity began with the 90 year Finnish Anniversary Dinner. Seppo is in his second term as President.

Board Member Assignments

Following the introductions, a discussion about possible individual assignments began. It was recommended that Elisa Boynton should continue for another year as Cultural Events Coordinator. The Board decided to wait until Elisa's arrival before taking a vote on this recommendation.

Greg Jacob agreed to continue his work on the Finnish Room technology upgrade with PSU and coordinate with other Scandinavian organizations in the Oregon and SW Washington. Greg also agreed to prepare an analysis of the responses to the questionnaire provided to Members at the Annual Meeting.

It was agreed there are other assignments which will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

2011 Cultural Events Plan

A number of cultural events, both FFCPC-sponsored and/or other Nordic group-sponsored events, have already been planned for 2011. FFCPC's current commitments include:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
April 30, 2011 7:00pm	<i>Vappu or Walborgis Eve Celebration</i> (sponsored by the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society) at Dave and Melinda Carter's Farm in West Linn
June 25, 2011 11:00am-9:00pm	Finnish Food Stand at the <i>Portland Scandinavian Midsummer Festival</i> (sponsored by SHF) at Oaks Park
October 9, 2011 TBD	The Lapp King's Daughter by Stina Katchadourian (sponsored by FFCPC) at Finnish Room
December 3-4, 2011 TBD	Finnish Food Stand at <i>ScanFair</i> (sponsored by SHF) at PSU

Additional FFCPC events currently in various stages of planning and development include:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
TBD 2011	Annual String Concert/Competition (Boris Sirpo Award and Wilho Saari Kantele Award)
TBD 2011	Presentations – Sisu Trucks, Nokia, Finnish composers
December 31, 2011 (?)	Possible New Year's Celebration

Further discussion about these and other FFCPC activities planned through March 2012 activities will be addressed at our next Board meeting.

Financials and 2011 Budget

Dirk Schulbach presented the Financial Update for March 2011. Dirk discussed the Financial Statements for the period of January 1, 2011 through April 3, 2011 which showed total assets of \$9,137.78 at April 3, 2011, a net income of \$623.11 and no liabilities.

Proceeds from the Mannerheim Silent Auction will be earmarked for both the Jaakko Tuominen Fund and the Finnish Class technology upgrade as determined by the Board. The estimate for the Finnish Class upgrade is approximately \$9,000.00; at present, we currently have \$2,700.00 reserved for the project, leaving a shortfall of \$6,300.00.

A discussion continued regarding fundraising activities and other ideas for donations for FFCPC projects. It was suggested that we consider charging both a "Member" and a "Non-Member" price for our events. Using a two-tiered pricing system would (1) help raise more funds for FFCPC scholarships and projects; and (2) establish a membership benefit which, in turn, could encourage individual members to make additional donations.

Issues relating to FFCPC membership were also raised. Specifically, membership renewal was addressed and how we need to encourage membership growth each year. It was suggested that prior to the Annual Meeting we should send out remainders (via email or mail, if necessary) to all current and former FFCPC members about membership renewal. And we should also send out invitations for FFCPC membership to potential members. It was agreed that additional work needs to be done on the Membership List so these issues can be addressed in the near future.

Seppo reminded the Board that our 2011 Budget is due in 60 days (June 3, 2011). Details regarding the 2011 Budget will be worked out at the next Board meeting once our Events Calendar has been finalized.

Other Topics

Seppo reviewed a list of topics from Elisa. The list included:

- Serving in Finnish Army
- Kantele Can Tell
- Channeling Information to Board and Within Board/Special Area on Website
- FFCPC Website
- Finnish Room – High Tech Phase
- New World Finn Subscription

Upon Elisa's arrival, she presented her ideas to the Board. Elisa began with a discussion about a possible FFCPC-sponsored event in May 2011 regarding serving in the Finnish Army. Both Elisa and Katariina Lehtonen volunteered to gather more information and update the Board at the next meeting. It was suggested that May 15 or 22 might be potential dates for this event.

Elisa also proposed "Kantele Can Tell" for promoting the kantele in the Portland area through events, teaching and the FFCPC website. The action plan for this project would include involvement in major Finnish and Nordic events in the area (e.g., Vappu, Midsummer, ScanFeast, and ScanFair). Dave Alford and Elisa would be team leaders for this project.

Other suggested projects included:

- (1) Designing a model for channeling information to and within the Board, which might include developing a special area on the FFCPC website for Directors and Officers only;
- (2) Further development of the FFCPC website to address current needs such as
 - (a) Finnish consulate information (Katariina Lehtonen);
 - (b) Past and Future Events section;
 - (c) Document the Mannerheim Dinner;
 - (d) Kalevala links;
 - (e) Kantele links; and
 - (f) Information about the Boris Sirpo Award and the new Wilho Saari Award.
- (3) Involving LA Finnish Consulate and/or TEKES in the Finnish Room high tech phase;
- (4) Obtaining a New World Finn subscription for the Finnish Room.

Due to the length of the meeting, it was decided to postpone any further discussion on these topics and finish up with the remaining open issues.

Board Member Assignments (Revisited)

We returned to the recommendation for the Cultural Events Coordinator and it was decided by unanimous vote that Elisa Boynton would continue in this position for another year.

2011 Budget (Revisited)

It was agreed that Dave and Dirk will begin work on the projections for the 2011 Budget which will be discussed more fully at our next Board meeting. Also, it was suggested that the Board consider (1) ideas for future fundraising events and (2) suggestions for Benefits of Membership.

Topics for Next Board Meeting

Topics for the May board meeting will be dedicated to (1) finalizing the FFCPC 2011 Events Calendar – spring, fall, and additional events plus the March 2012 event and (2) developing the 2011 budget.

The next board meeting has been set for Sunday, May 1, 2011 from 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.