

## **July 20, 2004, 3:00 PM GISCorps Core Committee Ninth Conference Call**

Present: Juna Papajorgji, Shoreh Elhami, Sanjiv Gandhi, Ed Wells, Tom Conry, and Wendy Francis

### **1. GC Registration and Policies**

Proceeding with registration of GC's trademark was unanimously approved. The committee approved to spend up to \$3,000 towards this purpose. The HQ staff will proceed by emailing the lawyers.

### **2. feedback on the Web site**

Everyone present agreed that the new web site is comprehensive, functional, and well designed. Tom suggested that we add a link to the online shop on the home page and also add all donors' names to the history and contribute page. Wendy will provide a list of all donors. By the time these minutes were written, Juna had implemented these changes.

### **3. PR Related activities:**

- *Letters to volunteers and URISA List serve*

Shoreh will send another email to volunteers and will ask them to re-submit their applications. Some simply are unaware that we deleted their records from our current database. She will also include information about the ESRI luncheon meeting, the online shop, and recent donations. Shoreh will also send a more generic and informational email to FOG.

Wendy will use some parts of this generic email and will send it to URISA's list serve. She mentioned that she had already included news about GC in almost every URISA publication.

- *Promotional material for ESRI conference and annual conference*

Shoreh reported that the online shop is ready now. She has also created business cards to be handed out at the ESRI UC and as well as a flyer. The HQ staff has already sent copies of the flyers to the conference site. Wendy said that we will not be at the Map Gallery; rather, we will have a booth at the Exhibit Hall which starts on Tuesday morning.

We then discussed purchasing GC items for the show case and Wendy said that she didn't think that would be a good idea for ESRI conference since they are not always in the booth, however, she said that we can do this for the annual conference and also other conferences that HQ staff are present.

### **4. Financial Report:**

- *Expenses and Donations to-date*

Wendy provided the new balance. As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, the balance for GC account was at \$379.11. Recent donations from: ESRI, FLURISA, Ohio Wesleyan University and

Mobile Video at \$5,000, \$750, \$500 and \$200 respectively will bring this total up to \$6,829.11.

There was a discussion regarding URISA's seed money. Shoreh asked if GC was supposed to return this money. It was mentioned that this could be like a line of credit (they will support us when needed). In order to confirm this, Shoreh will ask the Board about it (will update the status report and resend it to Wendy).

- *Potential Donors/contributions dbase*

Everyone agreed that we should work towards creating a database of potential donors and also potential partner agencies. Shoreh asked the committee members to look for potential partners and provide their contact information so we can create the database. Shoreh talked about the need for an online form for partner agencies. She will create a template and will send it to all members for their review.

## **5. New Items**

- *Our presence at ESRI UC in August*

Shoreh and Juna will give a brief demo about GC activities and the status of our volunteers on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 12:15 – 1:15 at ESRI UC. The room number is 27 A/B and the meeting is listed on the program as "GISCorps -- URISA's New Initiative". We will try to leave the majority of time for Q and A.

- *Conference in Barcelona in September*

Juna reported that she will be attending the World Urban Forum conference in September (13<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>). The admission is free and Juna said that she would pay for her accommodations, food and transportation there, however, she asked if GC could pay for the plane ticket (she has already purchased the ticket at \$1,000). Juna gave her opinion on why she thinks this conference is important for the GISCorps to be represented. This opinion was more or less within the lines of GISCorps being an international organization, the World Urban Forum being one of the major events in the world that happens only once in 2 years, gathers world governmental agencies, NGO's, and most importantly a variety of UN organizations with well established volunteering supportive programs. Juna also indicated as an example, her success in crusading for GISCorps at the FAO's headquarters in Rome in June, activity financially supported exclusively by her own personal expenses, and which result was to give GISCorps/URISA the opportunity to become a member of the SIMAG group, as an equal partner with agencies such as UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, OGC, UNEP, etc. In a follow up email as an addendum to the meeting, Juna withdrew the request for the GISCorps to pay her plane ticket and offered to absorb the cost by herself. In that email just as in the meeting, she also mentioned that the City of Newberry's Commission has unanimously approved her request for them to donate to the GISCorps/URISA, the amount of money they would have otherwise paid Juna for GIS and Web work she is doing for them as a private individual. Shoreh also reiterated the importance of the conference and said that she would also like to go but that she may not have the time.

The request started a discussion which resulted in Shoreh's suggestion to add a new item to next month's agenda. She said that prior to receiving the recent donations, we didn't have any reasons to discuss the details of where we think we should spend our money, or discuss whether we should have a separate account, how to keep

track of it, who to reimburse for what service, and etc. Detailed discussion over all of these matters will be on August's agenda.

The meeting ended at 4:30 PM.

Next meeting on Tuesday August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at 3:00 PM EST