

GISCorps Meeting – 8:00 AM, November 10TH, 2004, Reno, NV, twelfth meeting

Present: Shoreh Elhami, Juna Papajorgji, Martha Lombard, Ed Wells, Sanjiv Gandhi, Tom Conry, Chris Dionne, Wendy Francis, Cindy Domenico, Wansoo Im, Ken Sipos.

1a. GC registration

Chris reported that upon a second search for the uniqueness of the GISCorps name, the process will start to finalize the trademark registration. She estimated no more than 6 months for full completion of the process.

1b. GC language legal revision

Juna proposed to the group exploration of avenues for receiving free legal services for the revision of all GC documents, including the content of the web site. Members unanimously agreed and Juna offered to take up the task and check with the University of Florida. If not successful other members will follow up with other universities or private pro bono work offers. Shoreh and Juna will review the site and provide Chris with pages that need to be reviewed by the attorneys.

2. Working groups reports

- *Volunteer related:* As of November 10th, there were 71 volunteers and 211 FOGs.
- *Communication & Outreach:* Martha created a flyer for the conference and Shoreh 3 separate leaflets that were placed at the GC booth in the exhibit hall. Chris ordered several items from the online shop which along with Martha's article at GeoWorld magazine, were also placed at the booth.
- *Partnership:* Juna has created a preliminary list of 33 potential partner agencies and she will send it to 2 volunteers who will add more details to the access database.
- *Finance:* Chris reported another donation from City of Newberry at \$1,250 and a total expense of \$210 for merchandise purchased for the conference. That brought the total donations to \$11,610 and expenses to \$1,750.50 resulting in a balance of \$9,650.50.

3. New Business & Report on activities at the conference

Throughout the conference, CC members gave presentations and provided reports and updates to a variety of groups. The CC members also spent time at the GC booth at the exhibit hall during exhibit hours.

- November 6th: Shoreh gave a brief presentation to the Board of Directors
- November 8th: at the luncheon round table, Shoreh, Juna, and Sanjiv provided several interested attendees with information regarding volunteering and specific services.
- November 8th: Shoreh gave a brief report to URISA Chapter Leaders and sought donations.
- November 9th: Sanjiv and Shoreh provided a report to IRC and sought donations.
- November 9th: Ed moderated a presentation given by Juna, Shoreh, Martha, and Tom. Over 25 people attended this session.
- November 10th: The CC members met.

The remaining discussions were mainly focused on the new project opportunities and new issues generated during the conference.

- a) *Projects in US and Canada:* Several URISA members inquired if our volunteers would provide services to disadvantaged communities within the United States. Three of these projects were located in: an impoverished valley in California, several islands in Hawaii, and Indian reservations and tribal lands in the western US. Members had a lengthy discussion on the issue with Martha being against it arguing that this could generate competition with the private sector. Shoreh proposed to study and consider it on a case by case basis. And, Juna argued that on the contrary, this could open up work for the private sector which is not in fact often up to taking the risk of investing in these places at the beginning and also in other cases these communities may not be able to afford the private sector at all. She also asked to consider this issue on a case by case basis. Ed proposed to not deal with projects at home at least for the first year. Sanjiv proposed to come up with a list of criteria of evaluation that we can then apply on a project by project basis. This issue will be on next month's agenda for further discussion.
- b) *Kabul (AIMS) Project:* The Kabul project was further discussed. Shoreh will further investigate to find out if more people can go there for a shorter period of time. If they accept that, she might be able to go along with another volunteer who she will be seeking. Martha brought up the issue of a potential bad PR as well as direct or indirect liabilities for the GC should something happen to the volunteer. The members decided to come up with a release form that a volunteer would sign off before departure. Juna volunteered to find a model for such a form.
- c) *Internet and CD based application for schools in Afghanistan and other countries:* Wansoo Im, a URISA member, showed Shoreh an example of an online application that he was willing to donate to schools (www.gis4kids.com). Shoreh asked if he could create that application for any country and he said yes. More discussion with Juna and Sarah Yurman resulted in deciding to design and create a CD based version of that application (in addition to online based application) and implement the first GC trade marked application for Afghanistan and then for other countries. Shoreh said that she would check on computer and Internet availability in Kabul. Sarah Yurman will take the lead on the CD product with Juna working with her. It was also decided that Wansoo could still create the web application.
- d) *Placing outreach material on the web site:* It was decided to put some more outreach materials on the web. Shoreh will add copy right to the demo and leaflets and Martha to the flyer. Tom will also send his demo to be placed on the web site. It was also decided to place a link for the GeoWorld article on the site. Additionally, we will request additional copies of GeoWorld so we can mail it to each chapter.
- e) *GSDI Meeting in Cairo:* This conference is held in Cairo in April 2005 and is a great place to meet people with similar interests and recruit both volunteers as well as potential partners. The possibility of going there will be discussed at the next conference call.

- f) *Other*: Two more potential projects were discussed, one with Tanzania and one on the cadastral system in Afghanistan via Steve Ventura. Juna asked and obtained consensus from the CC to work with Frank Chang for investigating the possibility of an FGDC grant.

To do List:

Juna:

- Will explore possibilities of using Free legal services from the UF Law School.
- Follow up with Sara Yurman on the school application CD
- Find a template of the volunteer release form from the PeaceCorps
- Update the web with new materials
- Work with Frank to see if there could be a possibility for a FGDC grant.

Shoreh:

- Along with Juna will review the site for the pages that need to be reviewed by the attorneys.
- Along with Ed, Draft appreciation letters for volunteers, donors, and FOGs to be sent to them via an automatic email.
- Add copyright to the demo and leaflets
- Send an email to Chapter leaders, ask for donations, and also inform them of new online documents
- Send an email to IRC members also seeking donations and support for free mileage
- Email the attendees of every session and thank them for their interest and encourage them to sign up as a volunteer.

Martha:

- Convert the flyer to PDF and send it to Juna.

Tom:

- Convert his demo to PDF and send it to Juna

Chris:

- Contact attorneys for the trademark

Next conference call, Tuesday December 21st, at 3:00 PM EST