

Friends of Danang
June 12, 2008
Enrico Biscotti Company
Strip District

MINUTES

1. Welcome to Guests:

Dr. Dave Berman, Associate Professor at University of Pittsburgh
and friend of Jim Wolf.

2. Silent Reflection: individual reflections

3. Financial Report:

There was a reported balance of \$11,257.69 in the administrative checking account as of May 31, 2008, of which \$3,865 is restricted for Roger's book fund. Therefore, we have a non-discretionary balance of \$7,392.69. At our May meeting, \$233 was collected for the Larry Lagattuta Fund, which remains at \$6,958.00.

A complete report is enclosed.

4. Veteran's Day Breakfast:

The cover letter for the invitation to the Veteran's Day Breakfast and to sponsor ads in our program was reviewed. Prices for the ads were also discussed. All sponsors will be asked to send their ads to John Dziak electronically if possible.

A complete report is enclosed.

5. New Project:

On June 5, 2008, a steering committee, chaired by Elaine, met and discussed some possible new projects for the Friends of Danang.

A report of that meeting is attached to these minutes.

Although there have been some informal requests made from sources in Danang, discussions about new projects basically came down to building schools and/or wells. Both are needed in the rural areas, are doable, and could be financially within our reach. The price of labor is rising sharply and rapidly.

The following comments were made during the discussion of the new project(s):

- Should we plan on the larger project vs. building a smaller school and then expanding later?
 - We should sell the dream, not the amount.
 - We need more aggressive fundraising.
 - Consider partnering with a 501(C) 3 organization because it is very difficult to find a benefactor to donate \$150,000.
 - Does the Vietnamese Children's Fund only build schools and not wells?
 - Could we use Roger Costello's Book Fund?
 - In earlier years, Jeanne Hungerman of World Vision gave a strong argument for funding fresh water projects.
 - We need to take fundraising to a new level and celebrate the ten years as this organization.
 - We could kick off a campaign to do both projects.
 - If we did only water wells, we could work under the umbrella of World Vision or East Meets West.
 - Tom F. reported that a water purification system may cost \$50-70,000 depending on the size of the village and we have to subsidize it for several years.
 - Will anyone match our funds for a water project?
 - Rotary may help financially, but needs to know where and how it is being spent.
 - Dan will approach his former marine unit and ask them to consider raising money to build a school. Dan, Tony, and TJ will do a presentation at the reunion of Dan's marine company in Fredericksburg, VA in late August.
 - T.J. is prepared to send out 300 letters for ads for the VDB...we need to know who the checks should be made payable to if we are partnering with another organization for our next project.
 - Could we build water wells at existing schools?
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- Sam Russell, Country Director of the Vietnam Children's Fund, called during the meeting. Tony told him of our thoughts and concerns regarding our next projects including schools and wells. The following are the comments that Sam Russell made, or they are answers to our questions:
 - We could enlarge an existing building.

- We could renovate a new building where safety is a concern due to poor structural conditions.
- A standard well with potable water for a school and the surrounding area may cost around \$1500.
- A water tower which pumps out of a well would cost around \$1700. It is a better system in that it stores water and then dispenses it for the school and village. It fills up every night to capacity, 2000 liters or 500 gallons.
- Prices have risen so high that a tower made of reinforced cement with a stainless steel water tank may cost \$4000-5000.
- Vietnam Children's Fund would supervise construction of a well if it was in conjunction with the building of a school but is subject to board approval. They would oversee the project from start to finish.
- Two locations of possible sites were mentioned. One site is fairly remote and one is fairly populated. There is an older area near the coast which has a very primitive and unsafe school which needs to be replaced. It was originally built in the 1970's.
- Sam Russell commented that he is in awe of the generosity of the FOD and our willingness to help. He would be proud to help in any way he can.

It was agreed that we need to invite Graham Hodgetts back to update us on the building of water wells. Note: 1.1 billion people in the world do not have potable water.

Jim Snider, Jim Wolf, and Tom Fallon are investigating water project possibilities and separate funding. They will form a subcommittee and get back to the group.

It was agreed that we could move forward in planning on building a school and doing a water project. We need that goal to sell ads to the public. There was a motion to raise money to build schools and minimal water well. The motion was second and approved.

8. Open Discussion:

On July 8, 2008 it will be Veteran's Night at the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game. It is a tribute to all veterans. Jim Snider proposed that this could be a possible fundraiser for us. He will update us with more information.

On Sunday, November 23, 2008, FOD will hold their annual jewelry show along with a Vietnamese brunch/lunch. It will be held at Chatham Village in Mt. Washington. More information will follow.

Marie Fallon, wife of Tom, is running in the San Fran Marathon in October. Along with some friends, Marie has graciously offered to use her sponsored funds as a fundraiser for FOD. *Thank you Marie!*

Cindy Bahn is going to Mexico to build her fourth house.
Roger Costello came back for short term. He is leaving again for three months.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 10, 2008** at Enrico Biscotti Co. at 7:00 pm.

See you there.

Respectfully submitted,

Enclosures:

- Financial Report
- VDB Committee meeting report
- Minutes from the new project steering committee meeting.

