

EWCPA Board Meeting

(2017 Election)

9-14-2017

@Hale Halawai

Board Present

1. Shintaro Taniguchi, President
2. Payal Maharaj, Vice President
3. Sameer Saraswat, Secretary and Election Committee Chair
4. Kazufumi Taira, GSO representative
5. Seung Yang, Activity Coordinator
6. James Patrick Alonzo, Activity Coordinator
7. Mathew Kelty, Friends of East-West Center
8. Elyssa Santos, Community Service Representative
9. Mitsuko Suzuki, Hale Kuahine Representative

Board Not Present

1. Mary Hamilton, Shuttle Coordinator
2. Aarthi Padmanabhan, Sustainability Coordinator
3. Tagayasu Anzai, Spouse Coordinator
4. Desiree Simandjutak, Hale Manoa Representative
5. Ranjeeta Archarya, Treasurer
6. Amy Markel, Community Garden Coordinator

Meeting started at 10:06pm

Discussion

Issues about the EWPCA election

- **Issue 1: Time line was too short**

- Although the announcement was made in WES and white board was made, most of the voters did not receive the information (i.e., election candidate, timeline). There was a suggestion to postpone the election. So far, 14/29 candidates have accepted via e-mail to hold the election tomorrow as scheduled.
- (Shintaro:) Candidates might have got information, but for voters, the process was unclear
- (JP:) (1) Most of the residents were not aware of the election, even 2-3 days before the election; (2) Candidates were not sure when to post their statements (there was no deadline indicated in the e-mail)
- Reasons for short timeline (explained by Sameer):
 - Received almost 60 nominations, which was more than expected → needed modification for the schedule
 - Statement of notification was sent on Saturday morning, but some candidates seemed to have received on Monday
 - Candidate statement were asked on Tuesday, and the election committee compiled it on Wednesday evening, and send it to Mona.
 - In order to have a smooth transition from current to new board members (i.e., meeting in later September), the schedule has been tighter than regular year

- There was supposed to be a “meet the candidate” meeting on Wednesday, but due to time line and Hale Halawai capacity, this was canceled.
 - Lessons for future (Mathew):
 - (1) e-mail to EWPCA e-mail list serv rather than via Mona, so that the election chair can manage the schedule more easily and avoid miscommunication,
 - (2) the given timeline was too short anyways,
 - (3) a board member should not be the election chair. The rule is to have the election chair assign the next chair, but usually people can’t schedule something a year ahead. The chair him/herself can’t guarantee to be in Hawaii too.
 - (Shintaro;) Better to not have the board taking care of the election. Since there are no successors who are passing on and shadowing the know-hows about this election process, many information has been lost. We will need a EWC internship position, who can choose the chair with more formal process, and support him/her throughout the election process.
- **Issue 2: Statement**
 - (Payal) Mentioning in the statement that “There hasn’t been any female EWPCA president” → misunderstanding
 - Revised the statement within an hour, and resent it via Mona
 - JP (counter nominee): not an issue