

## **SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday April 26th, 2023**

**[ONLINE]**

**Meeting Time:** 13:00- 15:00

**Meeting Facilitator:** Abraham Dawidziak Kiermaier

**Meeting Minute Taker:** India-Lynn Upshaw-Ruffner

### **Members in attendance:**

Sebastián Di Poi (SAF)

Courtney Witter (SAF)

Iqbal Hussain (SAF - incoming)

Katherine Parthimos (SAF)

Paige Keleher (Sustainable Concordia)

Angelica Antonakopoulos (Student-at-Large)

Sean Levis (CSU)

Erik Huang (Community)

Georgette Pascual (Arts & Science)

Cassandra Lamontagne (Concordia Staff)

Sandra Muafo (Living Labs Coordinator)

### **Members absent:**

Duha Elmardi (SAF)

Mohammad (Haman) Jamali  
(Student-at-Large)

Elizabeth Malitastinic (Fine Arts)

Kelley Boileau (ENG)

Mitchell McLarnon (Concordia Faculty)

## **1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

### **a. Sign up for next meeting**

## **2. Review and Approval of Minutes**

### **a. [March 28th, 2023] BoD Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the [March 28th, 2023] meeting minutes:

- **Moved by:** Erik
- **Seconded by:** Sean
  - In favour: 4
  - Against: 0

- Abstain: 2
- *Motion passes*

### 3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

**Motion** to adopt the [April 26th, 2023] agenda:

- **Moved by: Angelica**
- **Seconded by: Erik**
  - In favour: 4
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 2
- *Motion passes*

### 4. SAF General Updates

- a. **SRA Ceremony May 10th, 5-7pm!**
  - i. MB 9th floor B+C

### 5. Committee Updates

#### **a. HR/Governance**

- i. Ratification of Iqbal Hussain as Finance and Funding Coordinator

**Motion** to ratify Iqbal Hussain as Finance and Funding Coordinator at SAF.

- **Moved by: Sean**
- **Seconded by: Angelica**
  - In favour: 4
  - Against: None
  - Abstain: 2
- *Motion passed*

#### **b. SPC**

- i. Regular project funding budget: \$9,938.37
- ii. Living Labs budget: \$39,442.00
- iii. Approved three revision requests

### **c. Finncomm**

- i. Transitioning to a new coordinator! First week of training underway
- ii. Began financial comparison for winter fee levy (refunds decreased again 4.73 to 4.33%) very little variance from prediction of funds

### **d. Marketing/Outreach**

- i. No updates

### **6. Project Funding Allocation (12 projects to review)**

**a. Regular Project Funding Budget:** \$[9,938.37]

**b. Living Labs Project Funding Budget:** \$[39,442.00]

### **Project 1: [Hamidou Horticulture (\*SLLFP)]**

- Requesting [\$6,040]
- Requesting more information
- Presented by [Seb]
  - Notes
    - Living labs project
    - Produces and sells native and ancient african products, farming out of loyola and Senneville
    - Looking to sell 5-10 CSA baskets. 30% of baskets will be ancient african produce, the rest are regular vegetables
    - Recommended to apply for Living labs instead of SPC
    - Reduced their ask for reapplication under living labs
    - Recommendations and questions: work with African student associations, find out more about the rental of space in Senneville. Are their sales just surrounding CSA baskets or at other farmers markets as well? Entrepreneur of business only putting 5% of their budget seemed off. Sourcing of marketing materials, planting non native plants ramifications
    - Not yet greenlit as living labs project, but if the questions are answered it likely to be greenlit
    - Produce wasn't planned to be sold outside of baskets on campus
    - Also CSA solidarity baskets for lower income folks and students for free - no precise number as it depends on surplus, 1-2 each week
    - Partnership with concordia food coalition
    - Senneville field is used to produce larger foods like potatoes, squash etc. Loyola space is limited

- Still selling at farmers markets (maybe not the concordia one?), baskets and products sold separately
- Want to increase production and sales and sharing knowledge of urban agriculture specifically to BIPOC community members.
- No potential for invasive species, Hamidou is trained and all plants are annuals.
- Happy to collaborate with African student associations on campus and are working on outreach
- Budget: \$1,000 to field, \$1,600 marketing, \$1,500 to materials
- Iqbal: exciting that they will be growing African produce
- Erik: all my concerns were answered, just waiting on greenlight from Pietro
  - Cassandra will update hen Pietro responds
- Cassandra: answers were as expected in regards to the living labs targets, glad donations to Peoples Potato was cleared up. Hopes they follow through and collaborate with the concordia community
- Motion should wait until we hear back from Pietro, maybe a conditional vote dependent on his approval?

**Motion** to approve full funding of [\$6,040] to [Hamidou Horticulture] contingent on Pietro's response of if it qualifies for living labs, and to only release this information once the greenlight is confirmed.

- **Moved by: Erik**
- **Seconded by: Sean**
  - In favour: 4
  - Against: None
  - Abstain: 2
- *Motion passed*

## Project 2: [Indigenous Art & Sustainability (SLLFP)]

- Requesting [\$17,457]
- Requesting more information
- Presented by [Cassandra]
  - Notes
    - Series of 6 pop-up events during the summer, 3 at concordia and 3 at Milton park
    - Hosted by concordia art hives and a houselessness support group (Commune) as well as Pedalbox gallery
    - Invite houseless indigenous people to come in and create in a variety of different mediums, very public facing
    - Traditional practices like soapstone and beading
    - Opportunity to increase dialogue between houseless individuals and community and students, reduce stigma surrounding houselessness
    - \$13000 for coordinator wages, rest honorariums for facilitators and artists
    - Other funding sources are pending, a few in kind resources have been approved. Waiting for CUTV, and facilities management

- Feedback from SPC and Pietro: cautionary. Living labs targets they claimed are Waste 2.2, which wasn't applicable to the project. Climate 3.5 wasn't applicable either. But target Research 4.1 is applicable: two thesis students can use research from the art hives, but this is tangential to the project as it is explained in the application.
- Biggest issue with application: we don't know if this project can truly become a place for indigenous knowledge sharing and education as there are no indigenous members of the project organizers, and they aren't working with any indigenous organizations that we know of.
  - Response from project org: we don't want to approach these groups before receiving funding.
  - Indigenous involvement and endorsement is very important for this project, those perspectives should be taken into account.
  - Its difficult to determine if participants will be willing to share their experiences as indigenous people who are houseless and their traditional knowledge with passerbys
  - Lack of consultation was a big critique
- From the perspective of Office of Sustainability: concerned about facilities budget line - for electro assisted cargo tricycle. Approached facilities management with a completely different application, confusing that this project by pedalbox is part of this budget
- Asking for 73% of their budget from SAF w/o the cargo tricycle, way above SAFs 50% rule.
- Recommendation from living labs was to reject the project because of all of these issues
- Erik: SPC noticed how they were asking for lots of money, and many budget lines were unclear or miscategorized. What do board members think about the public art hives they want to host, how competently do we think they can organize this event?
  - Cassandra: is confident in the abilities of Concordia art hives, but is unsure of how the division of labour is between each organization behind this project and how well they organize events
- Erik: are they inviting indigenous community members?
  - Cassandra: Commune comes in there, since they have already hosted similar community events
- Cassandra: Also there's not space rental line in their budget despite wanted to host events at Concordia
- It seems we should wait for Duha to meet with project organizers before making any decision

**Motion** to table the discussion of [Indigenous Art & Sustainability (SLLFP)].

- **Moved by: Erik**
- **Seconded by: Angelica**
  - In favour: 4
  - Against: None
  - Abstain: 2
- *Motion passes*

### Project 3: [Revision Request: Canopy: The Hidden Life of Humans]

- Requesting [\$6,500]
- Vote initiated over email - approved
- Presented by [Duha]

### Project 4: [Revision Request: Textile Shredder]

- Requesting [\$]
- Fully approved
- Presented by [Seb]

### Project 5: [Revision Request: Deep Time Walk]

- Requesting [\$1245.50]
- Approved
- Presented by [Seb]

### Project 6: [Arbraska - Muslim Student Association]

- Requesting [\$3,543.37]
- -
- Presented by [Erik]
  - Notes
    - Project by MSA
    - Wants to organize a community event for its members. Want to visit Arbraska to connect muslim students with nature. Intersectionality and availability of greenspaces to BIPOC
    - SAF funding would cover equipment rental, bus rental, and local muslim caterer
    - Promotion for event through fliers and word-of-mouth
    - Questions from SPC: how are they going to recruit 48 students?
      - Email did not answer directly, but they mentioned their instagram following and whatsapp group, but did not mention how they will pick 48 students
    - Clarifying discourse surrounding the event surrounding values to students: worried that it will be just a recreational activity rather than an opportunity to discuss deeper environmental sustainability like accessibility and mental health regarding greenspaces
      - Project coordinators responded: aligned with our core values as muslims, connections with nature is promoted by the Quran, and our event aligns with this principle, and this will be reminded to attendees to reflect on. We are also supporting the local economy through our caterer. And our even also fosters a sense of community and promotes mental health, we want to promote social

sustainability by making space for students to connect with nature and each other, allowing for more connection within our community

- Angelica: really wants to support this project because their response noted important social sustainability concepts. But the red flag is that they really pushed environmental sustainability, but then didn't answer this question and instead focused on social sustainability. Feels there some stretching and wordplay
- Erik: Duha seemed sympathetic to the organization since their grant writing skills did not reflect their knowledge
- Angelica: maybe they can provide some guiding questions or activities they are planning to do to discuss social sustainability? Maybe a simple round-table talk on reflections on the event could help? We should make ourselves available to help them make these questions, but suggests approaching them with this idea and offering for them to expand on this
- Erik: rereading this application is a bit wild
- Angelica: it's kind of like when you're writing a book report but haven't read the book. But still thinks this event is good idea, their response just doesn't reflect their original application
- Angelica: maybe their heavy environmental angle they proposed in their application could reflect on their idea of what SAF represents. But SAF is more than just environmental sustainability. Why did you choose the SAF in particular
- Erik: even if they spun the angle to boost connection in the MSA, it still isn't very strong, like maybe a raffle system to decide the 48 attendees would work, encouraging engagement? Or is it just everyone bringing 10 friends? Its unclear.
- Sean: regardless of their angles, the outcome is that the MSA needs funding to go to Abraska, at face value it seems like an activity SAF would support. Maybe letting them know SAFs values for any future applications could be helpful? Its hard to argue it would improve a culture of social sustainability. Maybe they tried all angles to see what stuck?
- Angelica: Sean is right that the social sustainability aspect will be reached through this event. Maybe we can still suggest the guiding conversation still. Its a well intentioned project with nothing that goes against our values. I don't see a reason to deny this funding
- Seb: Contingency funding, but also not micromanaging. It seems they need a bit of guidance, and it's an option for SAF to support the organizers in integrating these conversations and broader sustainability goals.
- Erik: if this event is approved it also brings into question future student groups that want to organize events like this
- Angelica: this project is also one that directly impacts a BIPOC community, bolstering support of this community is also another facet of social sustainability. It becomes nuanced on a case by case basis. You want to support social sustainability in the MSA, but what if the ECA comes to us? What is their reason for approving one over the other?
- Erik: is the cost to benefit worth it? Could the conversation happen elsewhere? This event would bring more people to the discussion though
- Angelica: would like more board opinions
- Sean: still believes this project is worth approving
- Erik: what are your thoughts Sean? If this application comes across in a different form, should we still approve it?
  - Sean: in the state of community life at Concordia, many groups are in a rebuilding stage trying to get more engagement. At the end of the day the MSA is

hosting an event to get people to come who otherwise wouldn't have joined the MSA. If it was a group of business or engineering students who wanted to go, I think it's important to support initiatives that gather students together. If we want to push the conversation of ecological sustainability, it could be contingent. In terms of social sustainability regardless of cultural group, it's important for students to feel that they belong and can be a part of an event.

- Erik: angle of cost effectiveness. But Sean, what you said changed my mind on the face value of this project. Maybe we should look at cost effectiveness? Around a third of our remaining budget would go to this
- Angelica: this brings into question how SAF places a value on projects, it might not be a road we want to go down where we base the value of a project on how much funding we have left
- Funds reset June 1st, project applications tend to decrease this time of year. There is also potential for transferring Living Labs funding to SPC if needed
- Angelica: In that case I wouldn't consider cost effectiveness in that case then. If we start considering this, any project sent in now would have an extra barrier compared to projects submitted in the fall

**Motion** to approve full funding of [\$3543.37] for the [Arbraska - Muslim Student Association] project with the recommendation that they should have a talking circle around social sustainability and the impact on participants.

- **Moved by: Sean**
- **Seconded by: Angelica**
  - In favour: 3
  - Against: none
  - Abstain: 3
- *Motion passes*

## **7. Community Announcements and Ancillary Items**

### **a. Strategic work coming soon:**

- i. Work on creating a funding guideline/rubric/checklist soon
- ii. More guidelines around voting
- iii. Explicit statement on SAF's values/mission and who we fund

### **b. Duha: War broke out in Sudan 12 days ago. The situation is very bad, please support this fundraiser for medical needs. Please keep my family in your thoughts and demand your MPs to support the Sudanese people who are left alone to deal with a war they have nothing to do with.**

- i. Maybe we can discuss donating leftover funding before fiscal year is done to allocate those funds to the fundraiser



## 8. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting.

- **Moved by:** Erik
- **Seconded by:** Angelica
  - In favour: all
  - Against: none
  - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed;* approved unanimously

*Meeting adjourned at 14:50.*