

Juneau World Affairs Council
Minutes: Sept. 10, 2009

Board Attendance: Jim Clark , Geron Bruce, Dave Sturdevant, Jeff Gnass, David Moe, Margo Waring, Doug Mertz and Mary Miller. Guest: Bruce Botelho

Fall Forum: Prospects for an Israeli-Syrian settlement

Jim Clark gave a brief history of his involvement, with assistance from Mike Thomas, (Mike would moderate the forum if it comes together.)

Syrian Ambassador Moustapha and the Israeli Ambassador Orin or designee
Thomas Dine – another speaker, active in American Israeli political action committee
And other negotiations between countries
Dan Levy – works with a Palestinian man, Amjad Atallah
Philip Wilcox, President of Foundation for Middle East Peace
Want to get someone from Iran
Robin Wright – reporter from LA may be able to come or assist
Suzanne Maloney – journalist

Look for funding – AK Humanities forum due Oct 1
Use the grant to bring the people here, and the significant others for a few of them.

Will AK airlines comp the tickets? Or extend the current discounted rates for this event?
Invite Lise Falcro in Anchorage and have AWAC reps. come to Juneau for the event; special airfare for this?

Bruce Botelho commented what a great event this would be for Juneau WAC and the national organization would most likely promote it on their website and through their network. Include info/links on our website about hotels, Ak airlines, etc. and even have people travel in for the event. This could be a major regional event. We would need to do early and extensive publicity.

Discussion:

- Margo Waring commented concern about funding- What is the cost? What if we don't get the/a grant to cover the cost?
- Dave S. expressed appreciation to Jim Clark for all he has done and the work he is doing. Reviewed format of past forums and inquired as to format Jim has in mind for this one.
- Jim Baldwin- Michael Thomas would like to try to have discussions from JPAC and peace side, Syria, Israeli, Iran, setting it out in panels. Jim going to DC and will get together with Michael to authorized to pursue project.
- Probably have several panels, their interests and impact on America and US; moderated by reporters. What would an agreement between the countries look like? Emotional yet civil structure around issue.
- Bruce – advantage of individual speaker to present layout their views and interests without interruption; then perhaps panel discussion later.
- Re finances – government people (ambassadors and/or designees) paid their own expenses. Jim- that's his assumption as well.
- We would be looking at cost for 4 people, plus their spouses for 2, contingent upon keeping the low price. \$500 round trip right now DC Juneau. Jim C. will call Bill McKay

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Current speaker arranged for Oct. 24th – Future of US Iranian relations.

Ambassadoe Moustapha is not available until 2nd of November. Start with Syria and then the rest will want to be at the table. Thomas Dine- he is trying to adjust his schedule. Cover airfare, hotel, etc.

Doug- \$8900 in the bank now. Would cover the cost
Geron- takes \$2000 for World Quest, We have \$550 in outstanding bills now; have commitments to upcoming speakers; having a budget would be very helpful. Bruce, would be willing to personally stake the event it's such a marvelous opportunity.

An event such as this could really boost JWAC in the community.

Jim – what was the cost of past forums?

Margo – budgets for past proposals approx. \$5000-\$6000

Liason with Jim – need travel schedules for board members,
Jim Clark would take on housing; would like to have someone with the board to act as liaison and share with others on the board.

Doug & Margo – gone Oct 23rd Doug could work on the taping

Dave S gone Oct 1-15

Jeff G here except sporadic days

Geron – here

David Moe – here

We currently have 4 confirmed speakers, and Israeli likely, Thomas Dine? Iranian govt. ?
American expert on Iran, about 7 total

What if the board committed to funding 4 people?

Jim C. is mindful of our fiscal concerns and will try to keep expenses down.

Bruce B. – without grants, could the Board authorize development of a program with a certain amount of money.

Baranof – give a discounted rate?

Doug to send letter of invitation through Jim. Jim is willing to do some grant writing.

Geron handed out last year's budget and expenditures.

Who will do external publicity? Jim C. to go to National WAC- they can distribute info and materials. Our website to have links to airlines, hotels, and other info for the general public to attend.

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Jim will put together a forum description and budget estimate. O/k to get in touch with AlaskaWAC Lise Falcro.

Use Goldbelt or PFD as venue for the conference. UAS.?

Margo- motion – authorize Jim Clark to continue his efforts to put together a forum. Allow him to obligate \$5500 in cost, Geron second. All approved; no nays.

Discussion – 4 committed speakers though Dec. \$2000 obligated. Membership fundraiser doesn't bring in a whole lot.

Would like funding for 7 people. Advertisement including corporate sponsors. Jim is going to do the solicitation. Housing people; potlucks, etc.

Nov 2 and 3. Monday and Tuesday. Start at 4:30 and do evening meetings.

If at the university...Jim will talk with John Pugh about financial support.

Do various venues perhaps lunch hour talk.

Philip Wilcox, Amjad Atallah, Daniel Levy, and Ambassador Moustapha – 4 commitments.

Next meeting – Sept 15, 5-6 p.m. small conference room downtown library.