



# Fireflyers International Network

## Meeting minutes of the Spring 2018 Fireflyers International Network (FIN) Steering Committee held over WebEx, March 9, 2018 at 8.00pm.

### Present:

Chairperson - Dr Sara Lewis (USA)  
Honorary secretary - Mr Sonny Wong Choong Hay (Malaysia)  
Honorary treasurer - Mr Vor Yiu (Hong Kong)  
Asian Representative - Dr Wu Chiah Siung (Taiwan)  
North America Representative - Dr Marc Branham (USA)

### Apologies for absence:

Australasia-Pacific Representative - Dr Lesley Ballantyne (Australia) has some technical problems.  
European Representative - Dr Jose-Ramon Guzman-Alvarez (Spain) is attending a Pine Conference.

### Agenda

1. Welcome by the Chair  
Sara welcomed and thanked everyone for their flexibility to attend the first FIN Steering Committee meeting. Sara apologised for the delay. The agenda was read out.
2. Introduction of Steering Committee members  
Since Ramon was the only relatively 'new' fireflyer and he apologised via email for not being able to attend the e-meeting, so this introduction was skipped.
3. Approval of TOR (document outlining our responsibilities) & FIN Mission statements – (Sonny)  
Sara screened the updated FIN website with the FIN Mission, Vision and Aims statements. These statements were circulated among the SC members in 15 Sept 2017 for comments. There was a comment by Ramon about FIN's vision is of '...a World scale objective'. A reply by Sonny that 'FIN plays a bigger role other than saving the fireflies, but at the same time their habitat (functional ecosystem) and of course humans and other wildlife.' No other comments were received by 23 September. The statements were approved by the SC and uploaded on the FIN website.  
Sara screened the TOR and Sonny went through the TOR. The TOR was approved without any changes.
4. Other updates (Sara)
  - a. FIN website now live: <https://fireflyersinternational.net/>  
  
Sara screened the website and thanked Avalon and her small team for a fine job. Sara also thanked Malaysian Nature Society for sponsoring the first year subscription and will look for our own funds. Sara reminded to those who have yet send in their short biography.
  - b. Confirmed: FIN 2020 meeting to be held in Portugal  
  
Sara mentioned of the reply from the councillor of the Urban Environment and Public Space Gaia Biological Park/Camara Municipal, Portugal for hosting IFS again. They will have 2 years to prepare which FIN can help. Sara replied Marc that the reply came late due to restructuring of the

organisation. Ramon has kindly offer his help as the liaison person and will have another session with him later. Sara asked the SC to send in any ideas or themes through the email.

c. Proposal to IUCN for Firefly Specialist Group

Sara updated on the progress of the IUCN firefly specialist group proposal. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> revision of the of the 2 page proposal and worked closely with IUCN to get it approved. XERCES from Portland and MNS are partners. Activities needed is to gather information from different regions, their conservation status for specific firefly specie. Sara mentioned about IUCN red tape.

5. Financial matters (Vor)

a. Need for FIN constitution, bank account, tax-exemption

Vor mentioned that in the long run, registering the organisation will enable FIN to have a bank account. All expenses and income will have a good record. A person or an organisation can open the bank account. With a constitution, application for tax exemption will be possible as per the Tax Department. Registering in Hong Kong is straight forward.

Sara thanked Vor to be FIN's treasurer and to request SC to help if needed for the 3-4 page constitution. Vor mentioned that to put in charitable status, including the terms and the charitable purpose and not a business. Vor will modify existing constitutions and will send the draft for SC to comment. Sonny asked about whether FIN Chapters is possible in other countries. Marc suggested to make the constitution simple and can be amended as time goes by.

b. Discussion of FIN membership fees (sliding vs. fixed, lifetime)

Vor suggested a registration payment together with an annual fee, student discount, life membership of 20-30 times the annual fees. Fees will be set high. Sara mentioned of a sliding fee for the financially constraint. Vor mentioned of accepting donations. Marc mentioned for a membership due what will the member gain and what are the major benefits, and what other benefits? Sara mentioned of various benefits like an e-newsletter, FIN website, etc. Marc mentioned of being an informal group and as the organisation grows, the need for financial resources and administrative costs. We need to think about where FIN want to go.

Vor mentioned that If there is no membership fee, and he shared his Society's experience. The members do not consider the benefits and not joined any activities, only as a supporter or want to be in the circle, etc. That is why the members pay a fee. A large membership is consider important and the income can be used for projects, administration, etc. Membership fees cannot be too low and if need to increase later will have a problem. Keep it at an optimum and have discounts categories.

Sara mentioned that a fee is for paying annual website fee, support young students grants to IFS, special category donations eg Radim, support artists to IFS meeting.

6. Planning for annual World Firefly Day (2018: July 7&8) (Sonny)

Sonny presented a 6 page powerpoint on how to celebrate the World Firefly Day 2018. There is a map on the website for participants to tag. Sara mentioned that promotion has started like Ramon to the European members.

Wu mentioned that he will have an event on March, Daan Park firefly festival, 4<sup>th</sup> firefly park in Taipei, after April, will be in the media and fB, middle April-May will be firefly months.

Sara suggested the powerpoint to be distributed to all FIN members.

7. SC Members needed to coordinate activities (Sara)

Sara asked the SC to volunteer for a specific item below.

- a. World FF Day – Sonny
- b. 2020 Symposium planning – Ramon
- c. Liaison with IUCN – Sara
- d. Liaison with Website Committee – Avalon and small team did a good job.
- e. E-Newsletter – to summarise FIN activities periodically. *Wu volunteered from an email dated 9 March, for biannual issues.*
- f. Other roles – Sara mentioned to suggest any other useful roles from the SC members.

8. Additional business

There were no other business.

Sara thanked everyone for this inconvenient meeting and also thanked Tufts WebEx. For the next meeting, the time will be reversed. A separate meeting with Ramon and Lesley will be arranged, most probably next week.

9. Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be 6 months later (September 2018). The date of the next Fall meeting will be announced at a later date via Doodle.

Meeting adjourned at 9.00pm.

Reported by,

verified by,



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Sonny Wong  
Honorary Secretary  
Dated March 14 2018

Sara Lewis  
Chair