

Minutes for Imagine Adoption Board of Directors
Location: Conference Call
March 8, 2010

On Call: Kelly Cussons, Lianne Armstrong, Rob Eagleson, Christine Starr, Martha Maslen, Scott Farrell, Sharon Sell

Regrets: None

1. OPENING ITEMS:

a) Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 8:01pm

b) Opening Announcements

There were no opening announcements.

c) Completion & Adoption Of Agenda

Rob will review his meeting with BDO

Martha will discuss the Ethiopian Friendship Meeting

d) Minutes Of Last Regular Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from Feb. 10, 2010. Approved.

2. APPROVAL ITEMS:

a) None.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) Executive Director Update

Sharon reported that the staff in Ethiopia spent last week moving their offices to the new location. They had very little contact with them while the internet and phone system were down.

b) Ethiopia Trip Debrief

Sharon, Val and JoAnn were able to accomplish their list of tasks while in Ethiopia. It was a very positive trip.

Sharon spent a lot of time going through the chain of command with the staff in Ethiopia and was able to assess each role and any changes that were needed.

She notes that the management staff is a very tight team and seems to work well together.

It is agreed that the staff in Ethiopia, especially the caregivers and nursing staff need to have some further training.

The staff have made some requests to Sharon that she will assess and bring to the Board for further discussion.

Sharon was extremely impressed with the efficiency of the 'after court' process. It is being handled very quickly by the staff.

Dr. Bultie really understands the process and is very well connected.

One request from the staff in Ethiopia was for another vehicle. At this time, Sharon will monitor the need and the usage, and report to the Board.

The new Transition House will meet all of our needs. It is a 5 minute drive from the hospital and is very central. It is in need of many items.

The accountant in Ethiopia asked if Imagine would pay the staff in U.S dollars versus Birr. It was decided the staff would remain being paid in Birr.

Sharon and the Board reviewed the current changes with MOWA when it comes to Relinquished Children and have started working on strategies to gain a full understanding of the changes as well as action plans to ensure that long term viability and success of Imagine Adoption.

The Board also instructed Sharon, along with Dr. Bultie, to begin the 4 month performance reviews of the orphanages to ensure those contracts are meeting the needs of the agency.

c) Global Reach/Faith Village

Scott has been contacted by Jim Cianca, who was involved in the Faith Village project.

Donations given to Global Reach Children's Fund were targeted to the Faith Village project.

It has been discovered that Global Reach Children's Fund is only recognized in Canada, not in Ethiopia. The directors of this organization are unwilling to put it into bankruptcy. It has been stripped of its charitable status.

It is actually Kids Link that owns the lease to the land on which Faith Village is being constructed.

Imagine Adoption will not be looking to work with the Global Reach name or the agency.

Rob will ask Susan Taves for any documentation she has on the land lease, and the project development.

At this point, Imagine Adoption does not have the funds or the resources to spend on this project.

Understanding the importance of finishing this project and the impact it will have on the area, it was suggested that another interested charitable group may be able to take over the project to completion.

d) Celebration of Hope

Rob reported that he will have JoAnn send out a reminder email to all families about the upcoming deadline for tickets. He will include a schedule for the evening as well.

He has also asked that each Board member provide 2 bottles of African wine for the silent auction.

e) BDO Meeting

Sharon and Rob met with Susan Taves for three hours to discuss the many issues surrounding the proposal and more specifically the proposed objectives and timelines as stated.

Susan has asked for some minor follow up items to insure we are meeting the required compliance and Rob and Sharon will put these together and forward as soon as possible.

The meeting went very well and BDO will be moving forward with there complete report for presentation to the inspectors and then to the families.

f) Ethiopian Friendship Meeting

Martha Maslen and Val Goodyear attended the friendship meeting in Ottawa to represent Imagine.

Members from the Ethiopian Embassy were in attendance and were happy to see them. This was the first meeting of the group in order to form the organization and assign people to committees.

There will be more to follow on this.

4. REGULAR REPORTS & ROUTINE ITEMS:

a) Family Snapshot

The Board reviewed all regular reporting with no concerns or questions noted.

b) Referral Snapshot

The Board reviewed all regular reporting with no concerns or questions noted.

c) Financial Snapshot

The Board reviewed all regular reporting with no concerns or questions noted.

d) Cashflow Snapshot

The Board reviewed all regular reporting with no concerns or questions noted.

5. MEETING CLOSE:

a) Final Comments

None

b) Next Full Board Meeting

Next board meeting will be a conference call on Wednesday March 31, 2010 at 8pm.

c) Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:02pm.