**ECRA MINUTES OF STEERING BOARD – 15 MARCH 2021**

**Attending**: Reinhold Probst (Chair), Lana Russell (Treasurer), Justin Higgs, Stafford Patterson, Ingrid Elliott and Monica Cook (Executive).

*Apologies: Junior Mernard, Carol Lynn Terrells, Kristina Malone, Frank Knowles, Scott Patterson*

1. **Current Programmes**: Extra Hand, Total Loss, etc.

These are now closed. There are a handful of individuals which are getting sorted out now but should be complete shortly. A huge thanks to Monica for working to implement these programmes and get help to people who need it. There has been a recent inquiry for extra help with a house – the owners received assistance under the first ECRA Home Assistance Programme. Reviewing criteria for the current extra hand programme, the owners do not meet these community determined criteria.

Reinhold will finalise the accounts to show what was spent on these programmes. We can publish these when ready.

1. **Small other community projects/work**

*Harbour Sidewalk*: Hopetown Rising want to pay for the repair of the Harbourfront sidewalk (from Post Office dock to the Lodge). ECRA has the equipment to do this. We just need materials and people and we can complete this as a community volunteer project. We need to find volunteers and set a date soon.

*Cholera Graveyard Fence*: This is mostly paid for and organised now through Monica.

1. **ECRA in Phase 2 recovery – setting priorities for the next year’s spend and fund-raising**

There are some remaining. ECRA needs to set its priorities (perhaps in consultation with the community) and then assess or create programmes to match those priorities. Possible programmes/priorities to review include:

* Teacher’s Cottage: The current government owned site is problematic – both in terms of location/hurricane exposure and anything that ECRA and others build there would be government owned. Consideration if sufficient funds - to purchase land and build community owned teachers cottage to ensure continuity and sufficient teachers to educate the children on the island. Issues to consider: maintenance costs, project management, etc.
* Education programmes such as environmental, girls education, online school for high school, college kid access to computers, apprenticeship work etc.
* Small/new business stimulus programme – in conjunction with Abaco Chamber of Commerce. Needs to be further detailed out – small loan for business equipment, etc.
* Those who haven’t been helped since all the programmes have focused on home owners – what about those who had losses but not in relation to a home.
* The Haitian community.
* The health clinic – a separate meeting required about this.

Noting that additional new programmes will need funds and another person on the Executive to find INGOs to partner with, or write grants and to implement projects. ECRA should consider how active and what continuity it wants – particularly if it takes on land and community projects such as the clinic and teachers cottage. Noting that the Steering Board’s role is to oversee and set strategy – an executive teams should be doing the day to day work.

Deciding that a full Board meeting by zoom is required to set priorities and then identify programmes which match. Suggesting we organize a meeting when everyone can make it – may be in the evening. There are big strategy decisions about priorities now that the first few waves of programme are complete. All Board members should be involved. We should also think about community consultations to help set these priorities.

1. **Continued liaison and co-ordination with other NGOs**

Reinhold continues to talk to the other NGOs to make sure we are not duplicating and that we are helping when we can.

HTVFR has some additional funds they wish to get to those still needing help to get back into their homes. ECRA happy to help with a programme if HTVFR can let us know what their criteria are. The money comes from donations to PERC so the programme has to be IRS compliant. We will need criteria and an open application process.

1. **Other business**

Commonwealth Bank is still delaying responding and getting the local account set up. Monica is still working hard on this.