

**Jamaican Mission Program
Board of Directors Meeting
February 17, 2009**

Directors Present: Jenna Gander-Sebranek, Bryan Myers, Nichole Myers, Micah Nee-Piasecki, Cindy Olson, Lindsey Olson, Terry Sebranek, Linda Wanless, and Rob Wanless.

Guests Present: Nancy Degner, Dave Kepler, and Lyndi Venglish.

Agenda:

- Call Meeting to Order
- Approval of the January 6, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Business
 - New Officers
 - Trip Recap
 - Next Steps
- Agenda Suggestions for March Meeting
- Next Meeting Information
- Adjourn

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The February 17, 2009 Jamaican Mission Program (JMP) Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by JMP President Bryan Myers. Bryan thanked Nancy Degner for hosting tonight's meeting and providing us with a wonderful supper.
2. **Approval of the January 6, 2009 Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Cindy Olson and was seconded by Jenna Gander-Sebranek to approve the January 6, 2009 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Terry Sebranek reported that we have \$1524.48 remaining after the 2009 trip. Bran Myers reviewed the expenses incurred while in Jamaica. Terry reported that he has filed 2008 JMP taxes. A motion was made by Linda Wanless and was seconded by Lindsey Olson to approve the Treasurer's Report as reviewed. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Business**
 - a. New Officers – Bryan Myers reminded the Board that new officer nominations should be held in April, elections are to be held in May, and the new officers take their office in June. He went on to add that our by-laws say that membership is limited to three to nine board members. If there are individuals who are interested in becoming board members, our by-laws will have to be amended.
 - b. Trip
 - i. Planning/Booking – All present agreed that the planning of the trip was good. Bryan suggested that in the future, volunteers could book their travel individually as packages that would include airfare, hotel, and airport transfers. He indicated that Linda's information would be made available to all travelers and each party could book their own trip.

- ii. Flight – Several volunteers indicated they would like to go back to a direct flight to Montego Bay, rather than dealing with a lay-over. It was noted that direct flights are often more expensive than those with lay-overs and some volunteers may need to consider that option due to financial constraints. Bryan reiterated that if volunteers book their own travel, there are more options to choose from.
- iii. Luggage – There were no problems with our luggage this trip! Linda Wanless suggested using a colored ribbon on our group's bags for easier retrieval at the airport. Linda also volunteered to coordinate this suggestion.
- iv. Customs/Immigration in Montego Bay – Bryan indicated that he thought it went smoothly, especially for the first time volunteers. He also indicated that since we arrived on a Wednesday, the process was faster. It also helped going through Customs with less bags.
- v. Transfer to Hotel – The drivers were on time, loaded the vans quickly, and got us to Sunset Beach quickly.
- vi. Sunset Beach – All volunteers liked this resort, agreeing that it is in a good location. Bryan indicated that the group travel representative, Tanisha, did a good job. He did note that the savings were not much and he is unsure if we will use group travel again. It was noted that we should let the resort know that for future trips, we should always let the resort know that JMP is there.
- vii. Daily Transportation – All were in agreement that promptness is something that these drivers could improve upon. Bryan indicated that, depending upon the size of the group, he would recommend using both Joel from this trip and Jermaine in the future. Jermaine has a very nice bus, is punctual, has driven for other mission groups, is flexible, and offers us a very good price.
- viii. Westhaven – All volunteers agreed that our days at Westhaven were fabulous! The work was well coordinated with Nasse as our lead foreman. Everyone felt that we accomplished more in our three days than the usual groups do.
- ix. Work Day Duration – It was recognized that the extended work day (8AM – 4PM) made for some long days. It was agreed upon that in the future, we will plan for two long days and the third will be a shorter day, ending at 2 PM. Bryan suggested that we reevaluate when we leave the resort. He discovered that the traffic is almost non-existent if we leave at 9AM instead of 8AM. This will allow us to have nearly the same amount of work time because time will not be lost sitting in traffic.
- x. Supplies – Crichton worked out very well! The supplies were of good quality and were delivered promptly. Bryan indicated that he had met the supplier for Crichton and may be able to work with him to arrange for potentially better prices by purchasing direct. Bryan will investigate this option for future trips.

- xi. Work with the Kids – Everyone enjoyed their time with the kids, even when they tested our patience. Our cottage books will be very helpful to remember names, faces, and characteristics of each child. Linda Wanless plans to update them every trip. Linda also indicated that she has spoken to Ms. Grant and all the children are doing well and we are to keep in touch. A suggestion was made for Linda to contact Ms. Grant shortly before each JMP meeting to obtain updates on the children.
 - xii. Faith Chapel – Everyone who attended agreed that this was a great experience. Bryan indicated that he would continue to try to coordinate a partnership with the Mission Jamaica groups in the future.
 - xiii. Vacation Days – All volunteers agreed that the trips to the Blue Mountains and YS Falls were great! Bryan indicated that he will continue to coordinate trips for the group. Suggestions for future vacation days were: Negril and Rick's Café and a sunset catamaran cruise.
 - xiv. Flight Home – The bus problem was concerning, but worked itself out. Everyone got home safely.
 - xv. Other Thoughts – Wednesday to Wednesday trips may work better because there are more flight options, Immigration and Customs is faster, and there are less travelers in the airport. Everyone agreed that it was very nice to have the work days at Westhaven and then worship with the children at Faith Chapel at the end of the trip.
- c. Next Steps
- i. Newspaper Article – Linda Wanless volunteered to work on writing a piece for the article. To be included with the article should be pictures of our trip. A suggestion was also made to make sure that we get this in publications other than the Observer.
 - ii. Radio – It was suggested that we schedule a WRCO Morning Show to talk about our trip. Lyndi Venglish, Dave Kepler, and Bryan Myers agreed to talk. Bryan will arrange this with WRCO.
 - iii. Fundraising / Publicity
 - 1. Several suggestions were made that included: Pizza Hut, Brat Stands at Burnsteads, Bindl Tire, and Ed's, County Fair Booth, and the Star Spangled Celebration Booth. Also suggested were another summer Bean Bag Tournament, Waffle Supper, Chile or Spaghetti Supper, Cookbook, 50/50 Drawings, and Silent Auction.
 - 2. Everyone who participated in the 2008 Canyon of Lights Parade agreed that it was a lot of fun and we should do it this year as well. Other parades to consider would be in Muscoda and Boscobel.
 - 3. It was determined that Terry Sebranek will reserve the Community Center for a Waffle Supper at the end of April or early May. Cindy Olson will contact Burnstead's regarding the Brat Barn availability for 2009. Furthermore, it was decided that instead of a Waffle Supper in October, we will have a Chili or Spaghetti Supper.

iv. Sustainability

1. Bryan asked the volunteers present at this meeting what their intentions for this program are, long term. Everyone present expressed interest and desire to go again. Some volunteers may have other obligations in 2010, but will work on their schedules to allow them to continue volunteering through JMP.

5. Next Meeting Information: The next JMP meeting is scheduled for:

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

6:30 PM Meeting

At Bryan & Nichole Myers' Home

6. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned by Bryan Myers at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nichole Myers

Jamaican Mission Program Secretary