

## **CSB MINUTES OF RETREAT ON 11 FEBRUARY 2017**

Present Richard Johnson, Terry Miller, Leonard Archer, Kevon Lightbourne, Lowena West, W. Patricia Morley & Mark Palmer

### **1/ THE CARIBBEAN POLICY DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CPDC)**

Terry Miller advised the group that there was an opportunity to write a grant for \$10,000 to help with our electoral reform initiative. He advised he was preparing an Annual Report in order to access the grant.

### **2/ REVIEW PRESS LAUNCH ON ELECTORAL REFORM**

A review of the recent press launch took place and the following comments were made:

- There was little participation on radio shows before or after the event
- The timeline for the event was too short
- Mark Palmer made a good contact at the Tribune
- No print media came to the press conference, although on news network (ZNS) did come.
- We received one piece of media coverage
- The live feeds received several shares and comments, and were viewed over 700 times

### **3/ REVIEW TOWN HALL MEETING**

Mark Palmer advised that an event had been created on FB yesterday and that so far we have 3 people going and 4 interested.

Several tasks were assigned as follows:

- Terry Miller to appear on radio to promote the event
- Mark Palmer to draft press release to media
- Mark Palmer to invite press - Tribune, Guardian, Punch and JCM
- Mark Palmer to promote event on social media
- Mark Palmer to provide the Directors with daily social media reports
- Mark Palmer to create invite
- Lowena West to create 1 page flyer
- Lowena West to provide sign up sheets for the event
- Richard Johnson to invite TUC
- Terry Miller to invite UB, Bahamas Christian Council and NCTUB
- Santana McKinney to invite Bahamas Chamber of Commerce
- Mark Palmer to invite Org Foundation, Better Bahamas, Ed Fields, John Bostwick
- Mark Palmer to invite CSB members to the event

#### **4/ CBS AGM**

Terry Miller advised that the AGM was imminent and that reports were required from the Secretary, the Treasurer and the President. The location to be advised.

Mark Palmer set up a template to capture the minutes from last year's AGM.

#### **5/ REVIEW 7 CORE VALUES**

##### **1/ Human rights and justice**

**All of our work is based on respect for the inherent worth and dignity of all people, and the rights that follow from this understanding.**

- Women's rights
- Gender Equality (LGBT Rights)
- Migrant Displaced Population
- Constitutional Reform
- Referendum (Sponsored by Civil Society)
- Full Enfranchisement of Youth
- Rights of child from birth as independent of parents
- Definition of Youth - UN 15-24?
- Legislation mapping

##### **2/ Transparency and accountability**

**CSB will provide and expects to access clear, accurate and up-to-date information. We are willing to hold ourselves to high standards and seek to hold others to similar standards as the ones we set for ourselves.**

- Gold standard Governance
- Compliance of members
- CSO Bill
- Electoral Reform
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Fiscal Governance Bill

##### **3/ Sustainability and capacitance development**

**CSB is committed to development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. By empowering members, our networks and the communities they serve, we believe that the benefits of our work will be enduring.**

- CSO Summit 1st week of Dec 2017
- CSO Mapping
- Our Sustainability through grant writing, fundraising, membership
- Income Generating Projects through Co-ops and Credit Unions

#### **4/ Cooperation and partnership**

**We respect the wishes and requirements of our members and networks – and the communities they serve – and we endeavour to create a shared voice, working together in a manner that enables us to achieve our shared goals and live our shared values.**

- Partner with CSOs on issues of mutual benefit
- Alignment between members
- Organise local government and private sector
- Ties to multilateral agencies / align to inter governmental agencies
- For support, training, advocacy, lobbying
- Connect with other CSO partners across the world such as ILO, IDB, UN, CPDC, CARICOM, US EMBASSY, OAS, COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION & EU
- Open media experiences

#### **5/ Democracy and Equity**

**CSB shares its own resources fairly and wants to see that the natural and intellectual wealth of The Bahamas is also distributed fairly, so that everyone is able to gain their share. We know that the success of development can be measured by how the least powerful people and the smallest minority groups are faring.**

- Sovereign Wealth Fund - Sovereign Wealth Fund Act, 2016
- Blue Economy
- Sovereign Wealth Fund (Petroleum) Regulations, 2016
- Engagement in Electoral Process (Youth)
- Constitutional Rights
- Good Governance
- Human Rights and Justice

## **6/ Advocacy and Research**

The narrative for the core value was approved as follows:

**CSB advocates on the issues that are important to its membership, and believes that systematic research to establish facts and reach new conclusions should form the foundation of everything that we do.**

## **6/ APPROVE NEW VISION**

**A Bahamas where civil society is respected and fully engaged in good governance.**

## **7/ DEVELOP NARRATIVE FOR VISION**

Terry Miller to provide the narrative for vision for review.

“We aim to develop a culture of good governance at all levels of civil society, the business sector and the Government.”

## **8/ APPROVE NEW MISSION**

**As the third pillar of governance Civil Society Bahamas will lead coalition building among members and other CSO partners and promote civil society engagement in national development.**

## **9/ REVIEW 4 CSB GOALS / PILLARS**

It was agreed to utilise the core values as pillars for the moment in order to reduce the narrative and to post the projects under them.

## **10/ TIMELINE**

### **IMMEDIATE (12 MONTHS)**

CSO MAPPING - MP LW TM

CSO SUMMIT DEC 2017 - LW

ELECTORAL REFORM - LA

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - MP

YOUTH SYMPOSIUM JULY 2017 - KL

REBRANDING/COMMS

ANNUAL REPORT - TM LW JN

PARTNERSHIP PLAN - LA

AMEND BYLAWS - MP LA

STRATEGIC PLAN - TM MP BOARD

### **INTERMEDIATE (2 YEARS)**

ENACTING CSO BILL  
ELECTORAL REFORM  
CIVIL SERVICE SYMPOSIUM  
ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM FOR CSB  
HEADQUARTERS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CSB  
ADVOCACY PLAN  
BOARD RECRUITMENT

### **LONG TERM (5 YEARS)**

CO-OPERATIVES  
CREDIT UNION

### **11/ PROJECT PLANS**

Kevon Lightbourne to provide templates and guiding notes to each of the Directors tasked with created project plans for items in 10/ above.

### **11/ AGM**

Terry Miller advised the group that we require a President's Report, Treasurer's Report, Secretary's Report, and Committee Reports.  
Terry Miller to confirm the location.