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Minutes

3nd meeting of CHAYAH August 19, 2018, 12:00-5:00 p.m. CHAYAH, 963 El Camino Rd., Waxahachie, Texas 75167

- I. Meeting called to order with thanksgiving and prayer for Yah's grace and favor at Noon and Discussion starting at 12:15 p.m. Members present: Carrie Windham, James Bell, Melissa Rawlins. Members not present: Cloud Criswell, Stephanie Henry, Pastor Benyehudah. Guests present: Rick Athens of Clyde, Texas, and Mary G. Merino of Joshua, Texas.
- II. Minutes of the second meeting were approved by all.
- III. Reports on recent meetings / investigations / progress were taken.
 - A) Melissa described a surprise meeting in early August with Pastor BenYehudah, whose ministry has officially adopted CHAYAH under their 501c3 umbrella. He said the framework would be: ELIM International sets up a bank account for CHAYAH, which will file a monthly quickbooksor excel-report with ELIM. ELIM will file the 990 forms with the IRS. ELIM has a CPA so we do not need to hire one. ELIM charges no fee, but accepts a tithe. ELIM would like to have one of the ELIM board nominated for a board position but, given the time / distance constraints, would suggest a better solution being an ELIM board member be appointed to sit on to CHAYAH's Advisory Board. A week later, Pastor Ben Yehudah set up the bank account. Melissa now has a checkbook in CHAYAH's name, and has deposited two donations into the account totaling \$1,200 and has written a tithe check to ELIM for \$120. Other deductions from the account include \$32.01 for the printed checkbook, \$120 for the leadership development workshop led by Mary G. Merino, and \$26.56 for fuel for two trips to the Boyd Unit for prison ministry. The total in the account is \$901.43.
 - B) Melissa also shared a sample letter from a prisoner in Pennsylvania, explaining that many from around the nation are writing and excited to learn more about this transitional house that we're planning. A mention of CHAYAH's plan was made in *Petah Tikvah* magazine, where Melissa's home address was published without her knowledge. C'est la vie. Many intriguing contacts are coming out of it.... One man in Oklahoma prison system says he has a foundation set up to support the launch of ministries and invites us to come meet with him. Members present asked Melissa to conduct more research about that foundation before agreeing to a meeting.

- C) James shared his success thus far in planning HOPE 4 DOMES with his partner David South, chairman of Monolithic Domes, Inc. He is working on his own nonprofit, and learning grant writing, so the \$8 million they expect this project to cost will be funded by grants. He is very hopeful. CHAYAH is also, as the building of the domes is the employment piece for CHAYAH, and the domes themselves may also be the housing / meeting hall for CHAYAH.
- D) Carrie is further along in her Master's program, and has found that most movers and shakers are over extended so thus far has not recruited more members who would like to be board members.
- IV. Nominations for the Board of Directors was discussed. Carrie asked if the board could be an interim board until a permanent board was brought to CHAYAH. If so, she would be willing to be Secretary. James said that in name only, he would be Vice President but he is quite overloaded and may very well ask Melissa to be on his own board. He said it could take a year to find the appropriate board. Melissa said she wanted to be the President. She recommended that since the articles of association say that President does the duties of Secretary and Treasurer when either officer is not able to, she could do those duties until the organization became much busier. Our guest Mary recommended that since grants will include our financial process procedures, then for transparency we should always have a secondary signer on the checks. Melissa reminded everyone that BenYehudah, who already gets financial reports from Melissa, would like to be on the board, and that most meetings would be done over the telephone. Carrie moved that ELIM be invited to appoint one of their board to be our Treasurer. James seconded the motion.
- V. An invitation to partner with Unlocking Doors in Dallas was discussed. The reentry broker has asked CHAYAH to be a partner/provider. James moved that we make application, and Carrie seconded the motion. Our partnership with Unlocking Doors was approved and Melissa will fill out the application. She explained also that their Reentry Symposium is on October 19, and a Partner/Provider can go for \$50 tickets. Carrie will consider attending and let Melissa know whether to purchase her ticket before September 1. James says the key is to learn how best we can work together with Unlocking Doors.
- VI. The next meeting was set for Sunday, November 4, at 3:00-4:00 p.m. Texas Time. The location is Wherever You Are... it will be a telephone conference, or SKYPE, or some such. Melissa and James will meet together in his Waxahachie office where he has wi-fi. That meeting's agenda will include elections of board members.

- VII. Guest Mary Merino conducted the leadership development workshop called Vision Boarding. The teambuilding exercise opened our understanding of our selves, our gifts, our talents and our goals. The visualizations we did while cutting out magazine images of what our goals are helped us each acknowledge what we have accomplished and to walk away with a clear outline of what we want to work for. Overall, the workshop refreshed everyone present.
- VIII. Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.