

Meeting Minutes
for
Valor to Virtue Board
Saturday 09 January 2020, 2pm

Present:

Chairperson, NS, SG
MP, KM

Absent:

RK, BP, CC
KMA, PG, AI

Items Discussed – ordered chronologically

- KM to take the meeting minutes.
- The board provided brief introductions of each member present.
- V2V has been in operation for 4-5 years, conducting charitable work in both the USA and Kenya. The next step for V2V is to begin implementing conservation projects in Kenya.
- NS and KM to conduct the practical work on behalf of V2V.
- MP is passionate about supporting children, particularly in Africa, and supports the medical care for individuals, both financially and provision of expertise.
- MP prefers to donate and support smaller/localised charities that have direct impact.
- The board advises that children are a main focus for V2V in particular, the implementation of conservation education programmes. V2V also supports conservation education programmes for women.
- The V2V-USA based charity has already financially supported education programmes.
- The board and NS are currently working on a medical case for a young child, 'Bonnie'. V2V will be supporting this through funding of transport, housing etc. as well as mobilizing the necessary expertise and support.
- The board and KM will be exploring opportunities to partner with schools in Msambweni, Kenya. Possibly looking at opening a small school in the area.
- The board explains that all medical cases will be directed to NS who will forward cases for possible funding to the V2V board to be reviewed. If successful, this will be followed by fundraising activities to raise the required funds.
- V2V has historically donated to the elephant conservation in Kenya, as well as funding schools and university fees for particular individuals and has funded conservation projects/land purchasing in Masai Mara.
- V2V efforts are currently focused on managing private properties along the Kenyan coastline for conservation. With particular focus on, turtle conservation, replanting of indigenous forests and obtaining 99 year leases for coastal properties.
- SG also runs a small charity, and supports charitable work in Kenya. SG is keen on women focused education programmes and is excited for this next step into more conservation focused programmes.
- NS is looking forward to physically meeting everyone in the future and is excited to learn more about conservation. NS is personally concerned about the rapid loss of green spaces in Kenya and this is a big focus. NS will be assisting KM with the blogs on the V2V website. NS would like us all to have quarterly meetings to be kept updated with V2V progress.
- KM has been working in Diani for over 5 years, originally managed Colobus Conservation and then formed a new organisation called the Conservation Education Society (CES) and manages a Marine Education Centre, which focuses on marine wildlife and sustainability.
- The Board explains that a big focus will be buying up land for conservation along the coast and has been working on this now for some years now.
- 2021 V2V goal's will be to purchase 5-6 properties along the beach to conduct turtle conservation and train staff in this area. Completion of the purchasing of land will hopefully be finalised over the next 6-8 months.

- KM and AI will be overseeing the coastal projects. Aaron will be managing the properties and KM to head the conservation programmes.
- Tribal Sands is the management company set up to manage salaries and properties, this is still being developed.

AOB/Q&A

- SG asked how do we go about promoting V2V's work, will this be through social media etc. or will we be keeping everything quiet?
- The board responded they will need some public exposure as proof of the charitable work V2V is doing.
- The board notes that there is local accountant working Nairobi who will manage all funding/donations.
- SG enquired with KM how they run CES and how it was set up. KM responded that CES is a registered society and is currently working on getting tax exemption, which they hope to be in a position to get late this year.
- NS expressed that they would like to see the following for V2V;
 - all operations and programmes to be streamlined,
 - would like regular reports from the accountant to can see what is happening and review budgets.
 - to finish the current project for Bonnie, the young child needing urgent medical care, this will be a big/top priority.
 - NS will continue working on the V2V logo with KM.
 - is keen to learn more about conservation, in particular turtle conservation.
- SG enquired about setting up an annual budget, to help give us direction and we can identify what we can and cannot achieve.
- The board is responsible for securing donations and will either fundraise or donate own funds to programmes.
- KM priorities for this year are as follow;
 - is to continue building relations and partnerships with NGOs and like-minded individuals along the coast, so to align V2V goals to the local context and identify how we can all work together going forward.
 - will work on strengthening community ties and identify possible community projects.
 - is currently working on formalising staff training and rolling this out over 2021.
 - currently finishing the website, this is almost complete but is a working process so will be developed as V2V grows.
- KM asked if V2V will be developing a strategic plan to guide us. The board responded, yes a strategic plan will be developed.
- The board highlights that V2V is partnered with Tribal Sands, who will assist with operations, majority of funds for the medical case for Bonnie is coming from the USA V2V 'branch'.
- V2V Kenya has a budget for contracts and work in Laikipia, Masai Mara, Naivasha and the Coast. Work includes infrastructure for education centres on properties. Goal is to raise a further funds this year to promote animal conservation.
- KM mentioned working on a new proposal to 'champion' a similar initiative whereby land will be bought for conservation in both Diani and Funzi Island. KM is currently working on grant proposal. There is interest by this third party in V2V's work and they would like to explore opportunities for a partnership and collaborative work. Further information to follow on this.
- The board are interested and open to collaborating on this if it grows traction. V2V could also help with the legality of acquiring the land.
- Proposals for possible projects can be submitted in February and March.