

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Date: January 31, 2009

Venue: SLCFA Premises at 2913-66 Street, Edmonton, AB

1.0 Call to Order: The President, Celia Daniel, called the meeting to order at 2:50PM.

2.0 Adoption of the Agenda: The following additions were made to the agenda:

Item 8.2a Committee on use of Casino Funds was added.

Item 8.4 Complimentary Membership & Bereavement Fund was added.

Item 8.5 SLCSF was added.

Item 8.6 Use of Casino Funds by 2010 was added.

Item 8.7 Building Improvements was added.

Item 8.8 Singing of National Anthems was added.

Item 10.2 Family Day was added.

The House accepted a motion to approve the amended agenda proposed by Anil Fernando and seconded by Gothami Wickramasekara.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on January 27, 2008: Minutes of the meeting were adopted as circulated. Proposed by Mano Senaratne and seconded by Dilu Fernando.

4.0 Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on January 27, 2008:
No matters arose from the above.

5.0 President's Report: A written copy of the President's Report was submitted to the Secretary's file by Celia Daniel.

6.0 Treasurer's Report: A Financial Statement as of December 31, 2008 was submitted to the House by Asoke Weerasinghe. He noted the following caveats that with regards to the Financial Statement:

- On page 3, Notes 4, 5, & 6 are to be disregarded
- On Page 6, the New Years party generated income
- The Heritage Festival generated ~\$5,000. This may be due to the fact that some purchases were covered by the AGLC (i.e. deep fryer and large rice cooker purchases), which reduced our event costs. Chris Senaratne and Anil Fernando noted that the use of AGLC funds for this purpose may be a grey area. Especially if it is claimed as an expense for the Heritage Festival.
- Jayathilake Liyanage and Chris Senaratne suggest that the deep fryer and rice cooker should be written up as a cost to the general fund, rather than the AGLC fund. Especially considering that approval from the AGLC had not been requested. Anil Fernando echoed this opinion.
- Chris Senaratne and Dilu Fernando questioned the use of AGLC funds for the Annual Picnic. Asoke Weerasinghe stated that some expenses for the Annual Picnic can be legitimately covered with AGLC funds.

- Mano Senaratne requested that the disbursement titled "Indian Dancing" is changed to "South Asian Dancing" within the Financial Statement.
- Chris Senaratne commented that he would have liked to have the Treasurer's report in advance, in order to review it; as opposed to on the day of the AGM.

7.0 Auditor's Report: Not available at this point in time. The appointed Treasurer for 2008 stepped down early in the year. Ramona Fernando and Asoke Weerasinghe stepped in as replacements. Therefore, the Financial Statements were not prepared on time. Lakshman Samarasinghe has not had an opportunity to audit the statements. He is to prepare the report at some point in the near future.

-Mano Senaratne suggested that \$3,000 be paid out from the General fund, and not claimed as an AGLC expense. This amount will be used to cover the Annual Picnic, deep fryer, and Heritage festival expenses. Vote is in favor of doing this. Motion passed.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Resolutions:

8.1a -Dilu Fernando made a resolution that the SLCFA uphold it's bylaw that states that the SLCFA is not to be represented by non-members in public events. Dilu Fernando stated her resolution, Shanthi Fernando seconded it.

Dilu states that the guidelines not been followed as spelled out in bylaws.

-Anil Fernando wants more specific examples.

-Chris Senaratne says this bylaw came about due to the Annual Sports encounter. He believes it should be upheld.

-Asoke Weerasinghe states that sometimes we need the help of non-members. Those volunteers outside the association sometimes play an integral role in our events.

-Mano Senaratne brings up the point that the bylaw may be incorrect and should be amended. He believes that we need non-members and that they play a vital role in our community. He also points out that the AGLC funds cannot be used if we restrict access to funds to only SLCFA members. Mano suggests that we defeat the resolution and change the bylaw.

-Chris Senaratne begs the question "why do we have rules?" His opinion is that we should have some restrictions as to who gets involved in our activities. He states that although technically the AGLC funds are for the general public, we can still have guidelines for their use. He believes that we should vote on the matter.

-Asoke Weerasinghe states that privileges that are extended to non-members should be discussed and guidelines should be made.

-Sharmini Senaratne states that she is in favor of the resolution because she does not appreciate people using the facilities and services yet do not become members of the SLCFA.

-Ramona Fernando asks what steps are to be taken if this resolution is approved. Eeshani De Silva's dance class has 90% non-members and requires our support for funding.

-Anil Fernando believes that the resolution is dangerous, exclusionary and will result in the death of the SLCFA.

-A vote is taken on the resolution: 8 in favor; 10 against; 5 abstain.
Resolution defeated.

8.1b Dilu Fernando resolves that she wants the seniors that partake in the outings she organizes, to sign a liability waiver. Shanthi Fernando proposed / Ramona Fernando seconded resolution.

-Mano Senaratne spoke to his lawyer about such a waiver. His lawyer advised that such waivers offer no legal protection in a court of law.

-Asoke Weerasinghe agrees with signing a waiver. He believes it is a good safeguard.

-Chris Senaratne also reiterates Mano's point, but believes it should be supported.

-A vote is taken on the resolution: 21 in favor. Majority vote in favor.
Resolution carried.

8.2 Use of Casino (AGLC - Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission) funds:

-Asoke Weerasinghe agrees that when an SLCFA event is funded by AGLC monies, no participation restrictions can be in place. However, he believes that there should be some criteria in place, which offer a benefit to SLCFA members, when such activities are being held.

-Gothami Wickramasekara suggests that we enforce a user fee to non-members.

-Mano Senaratne states that no differentiation can be made between members & non-members if using AGLC funds. He believes that it has to be open to non-members.

8.2a Committee on Use of Casino (AGLC) funds: Anil Fernando, Mano Senaratne, and Nimal Rajapakse comprise this committee.

-There is a 3 year term for this position.

-There is no mandate in place.

-Anil Fernando will be stepping down at the end of the year. He pledges to provide his support to whoever would like to step into this position.

-No questions arose from this report.

8.3 AGLC Reports – No discussion

8.4 Complimentary Membership & Bereavement Fund

8.4a Bereavement Fund- Anil Fernando informed the quorum that in the event a SLCFA member passes away, the Bereavement fund provides monies to honor that individual.

-At the end of 2007, the fund had \$920, as less than 50% of SLCFA membership had contributed to it. In the past two deaths within the SLCFA, over \$2,000 has been spent.

-The fund is currently sitting at \$1,500. Anil Fernando believes that if the fund does not contain at least \$2,000, it is insufficiently funded. He believes it is of no use in its current state. He would like to do away with this fund.

-Lakshman Samarasinghe makes a motion to scrap the bereavement fund. He suggests that those members, who have contributed to the fund, can either leave their money in as a donation, or request to have the funds credited towards their membership dues.

-Chris Senaratne seconds the motion. A vote is taken and there is unanimous support in favor.

-The incoming EC will be responsible for writing an e-mail to the members who contributed to the Bereavement Fund. They will be informed that the Fund has been scrapped, and that they have a choice as to how their contributed funds are used. It will be the responsibility of these members to inform the EC as to their decision (either leave the funds as a donation, or have the funds go towards their upcoming membership dues)

8.4. b) Complimentary Membership:

-Anil Fernando believes this program is a flop. It has provided less than 10% new membership retention. He believes the program has not worked and is in favor of scrapping the program.

-Lakshman Samarasinghe proposes that the Complimentary membership scheme is cancelled. Pamela Devanayagam seconds the motion. There is unanimous support for this motion.

8.5 SLCSF

-Anil Fernando sends a vote of thanks out to everyone who contributed to this cause. Over \$3,500 dollars were collected.

-The SLCFA is to match the dollars raised, using AGLC funds. Getting approval to use the AGLC funds in this manner was a long process and a lot of paper work.

-Nimal Rajapakse and Asoke Weerasinghe were credited for making significant contributions in this endeavor.

-Anil Fernando extends an open invite for everyone to become involved in this project.

8.6 AGLC funds; must be used by August 2010, or they will be retracted by the commission.

8.7 Building Improvements:

-Mano Senaratne informed the quorum that rebuilding the SLCFA building is not a viable option. The SLCFA, as an organization is not able to secure bank financing. Mano suggests that instead, a second floor is added to the building.

-Sarath Wickramasekara suggests adding a basement.

-Jay Withanachchi notes that it will be much cheaper to dig a basement.

-Dilu Fernando asks if the main floor is to be used for storage if a 2nd story is added.

- Lakshman Samarasinghe suggests spending the funds to remodel the inside of the building, and to reallocate the existing space. He also suggested that we look at other ways to spend the rest of the funds.
- The incoming EC can decide what is to be done specifically.
- Mano Senaratne has offered to get an estimate for adding an upstairs.
- Lakshman Samarasinghe is to get an estimate for remodeling the inside of the building.
- There is unanimous consent that more storage space is required on the main floor, with either plan / design.

8.8 Singing of National Anthem

- Mano Senaratne states that the singing of the national anthem at our events is an absolute disgrace. He does not want the national anthems sung at SLCFA events. Believes it is very disgraceful the way it has been carried out in the recent past.
- Jay Withanachchi believes that the anthems should be sung, but that a proper lead singer must be in place.
- Dilu Fernando suggests that we obtain a better recording of the anthems.
- Anil Fernando thinks that the incoming EC can make a decision on the matter, and ensure that it is done in a more respectable manner.
- The majority of the quorum are in favor of not scrapping the anthems.

9.0 Election of Office Bearers:

- Returning Officer: Chris Senaratne
- President** – Asoke Weerasinghe – Nominated by Celia Daniel, Seconded by Ramona Fernando. Unanimous approval. (UA)
 - Asoke Weerasinghe accepts the nomination with a few caveats:
 - He wants the number one priority to be the SLCFA building improvements
 - He wants to have fewer events, each one better planned.
 - He wants to have a policy to deal with members vs. non-members.
- Vice President** – Chris Senaratne – Nominated by Dilu Fernando, Seconded by Mano Senaratne. UA.
- Secretary** – Sam Withanachchi – Nominated by Anil Fernando, Seconded by Celia Daniel. UA.
- Treasurer** – Lakshman Samarasinghe – Nominated by Gothami Wickramasekara, Seconded by Nandanie Weerasinghe. UA.
- Director of Fundraising** – Vacant
 - Anil Fernando declines nomination by Asoke Weerasinghe
 - Jayathilake Liyanage declines nomination by Chris Senaratne
- Director of Cultural Activities** – Vacant
- Director of Publicity and Communications** – Albert Fernando – Absent from meeting. Will be contacted for his consent to accept position.
 - P.A. Saram declines nomination by Chris Senaratne
- Director of Social and Recreational Activities** – Chintha Kulatunga – Nominated by Gothami Wickramasekara, Seconded by Sharmini Senaratne. UA

-Director of Membership and Welfare – Gothami Wickramasekara – Nominated by Asoke Weerasinghe, Seconded by Celia Daniel. UA

-Honorary Auditor – Ramona Fernando Nominated by Sharmini Senaratne, Seconded by Dushanthi Fernando. UA

-Senior's Activities Co-ordinator – Dilu Fernando Nominated by Ramona Fernando, Seconded by Dushanthi Fernando.

President Asoke Weerasinghe presiding over meeting.

10.0 **Any Other Business:**

10.1 **Heritage Festival 2009** – Confirmation of Key Positions:

-Chairman – Asoke Weerasinghe willing to assume this role. He will be on vacation during the festival weekend Chris Senaratne agrees to assume the role when Asoke is away.

-Food Pavilion Co-ordinator– Ramona Fernando accepts this position.

-Cultural Pavilion Co-ordinator- Pamela Devanayagam accepts this position.

-Set-up and Tear-down Co-ordinator- Ranjan Kumburutenne has agreed to take this position.

10.2 **Family Day**

-Ramona Fernando voiced the concerns of Eeshani De Silva. Eeshani requires funding for her events, both of which are scheduled very close to the present date (February 23, 2009). Asoke Weerasinghe suggests that a letter be drafted informing her that ample prior notice is required, when submitting a request for AGLC funds.

-At present time, no approval for use of AGLC funds for this event, as been received.

-Mano Senaratne proposes that a letter is sent to Eeshani De Silva, requesting that her event be postponed for 6-8 weeks. This will allow for reception of approval from the AGLC for use of funds. It will also afford more time for planning, and for the SLCFA to do its due diligence, prior to allocating AGLC funds. Sharmini Senaratne seconds the motion.

Unanimous approval.

-Sam Withanachchi to draft a letter for Eeshani De Silva.

11.0 **Adjournment**

-Proposed by Mano Senaratne. Seconded by Savitri Senaratne.