

SRI LANKA CANADA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Part I
held at 2913-66 Street, Edmonton on February 6, 2005

- President Nick De Silva called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm. He requested for a volunteer Secretary and Jay Nagendran obliged.

Chris Senaratne pointed out a procedural issue, i.e., need for the membership to have an audited financial statement at least 14 days prior to the AGM. Therefore Chris moved to defer the election of new office bearers, treasurer's report and the auditor's report.

Anil Fernando seconded Chris' motion .

In favour of motion – 27

Against - 1; Motion was carried

- Additions to agenda
 - Building management sub-committee report
 - Food poisoning
 - Newsletter
 - Rental of building
- President's Report (verbal)
 - The president expressed that it was not an easy year. The secretary resigned and no replacement was found. There was no Director of Publicity until Albert Fernando undertook this task. The president had to sacrifice his personal time, including overtime and incur personal expenditure for Association functions. Annual Christmas/Member Appreciation Function was marred by an issue of food poisoning. In the aftermath of the tsunami disaster the president was kept overly busy in related events.

Nick felt that, in spite of these problems, the executive committee (EC) deserves credit for working hard. The Vice-President (Chris Sellathamby) remained calm in spite of pressure. The Membership Director (Suresh Fernando) carried out his job well.

During the year under review eight EC meetings were held. Heritage Festival and the annual sports encounter turned out to be enjoyable events.

The President thanked the members, Lal Weera and Samantha Silva in particular, who volunteered their services on behalf of the SLCFA.

Nick emphasized that his tireless work was not for personal glory and regretted his inability to serve further due to personal commitments and obligations.

Membership Director's Report (Suresh Fernando)

- \$1,592.00 collected and \$1,667.00 reported in the Financial Report.
- Some discrepancy between amount collected and amount reported. Suresh will check on this.
- 105 individual and family memberships.

Publicity Director's Report

Albert Fernando: two newsletters (intended to have 4, one is in a partial state).

- Two news items were published in *Sunday Island*
- Tsunami crisis publicity
- Seniors' activities publicity
- Should have had more publications but due to personal employment circumstances he could not do better

Heritage Festival

- Only one volunteer so far (Lal Weera to do Arts and Crafts). Lal Weera's daughter came up with some design with her Arts class students. \$1,000.00 was approved for canvass, etc. for paintings. This was cost effective. We do not have a chairperson, entertainment director and food coordinator.
- Registration fees were paid.

Building Expansion

Nothing has been done.

Wildrose Foundation Quarterly Grant

- Several proposals were sent:
 1. Competition for students at various levels – turned down
 2. Asked for a 55" TV – turned down
 3. Digital Camera – approved
- We are at an impasse – if we do not have a viable proposal, we will have to turn the money back. Administrative Assistant/laptop projector/etc. were the items funded.
- Shyamala asked if we can get money for senior transportation for exercise classes? Nick asked Shyamala to write something up if she wanted to move this forward.
- Mano Senaratne recommended that we hire an Administrative Assistant to put the house in order.

Seniors Program

Albert Fernando: 7 events

1 publication

2 outings (Auditorium and Legislature)

Albert Fernando does not wish to continue due to work commitments.

Anil Fernando volunteered to organize the Senior's activities. All agreed.

Other Business

Chris Senaratne – Bylaws

- Societies Act has changed.
- Objects of the Association have to be outside the bylaws. It remains as is, but is not part of the bylaws.
- AGM, special meetings and general meetings should all be reflected in the by-laws.
- Chris has made the changes and filed them.
- This is on the website.

Building Management Sub-Committee Report (Lakshaman Samarasinghe)

- Proposed guidelines for Building Management. Lakshaman had a summary – web-based building schedule, motion sensor, inventory of valuable items and 65 events for the year. Users did a good job of looking after the place.
- The document was proposed by Lakshaman and seconded by Upali Samarakoon – passed unanimously.
- Some discussion on insurance for serving liquor (in addition to the liquor permit). Renters need to get their own insurance. For Association functions, how far do we need to go?

Disaster Relief Fund

- Some contributed to the Canadian Red Cross.
- Some contributed to the Association (\$2,949.00). In addition we have another nearly \$1,000.00 collected by Samantha Silva.
- The Association collected on behalf of the Canadian Red Cross. The Association needs to thank Lal and Nilmini Weera.
- Anil Fernando has embarked on his own program for food, shelter and clothing. Encouraged the membership to consider this.

Jay Withanachchi

Wants to buy plastic donation boxes (\$1000 for 100 boxes) and leave these at various stores. Minimal support was given for this initiative.

Food Poisoning (Savitri Senaratne)

- The kitchen that we used should be condemned.
- Proposed that we need to use approved kitchens
- If this type of a situation occurs, let the membership know (Gothami Wickramasekara).
- Stick to the health rules.
- Use of approved kitchens only; seconded by Chandrani Wijayasinghe, unanimously approved.

Newsletter

- Facts should be checked before printing. What resources do people have to make a counter point?

Rental of Building

Savitri's friend wanted to have a wedding reception at the SLCFA premises. Nobody got back to this lady for 2 weeks. Savitri got the information and this lady filled the forms, then the building was not available due to renovation. No one informed her; she had printed the invitations. Finally the reception was in the garage. This is unacceptable.

Payments

A few outstanding items. Nick wants small outstanding payments concluded. House agreed.

Next meeting to conclude the AGM – Saturday, March 5, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.

Chris Sellathamby made a plea to find a way to conclude the meeting on this day, but based on the motion passed earlier in the meeting, this was not accepted.

Minutes recorded by Jay Nagendran