

SRI LANKA CANADA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Part II held at 2913 – 66th Street on March 5, 2005

Call to order

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President, Chris Sellathamby called the meeting to order at 2.00 p.m.. The meeting commenced with the singing of national anthems of Sri Lanka and Canada.

Agenda

1. Additional agenda items
2. Minutes of the mid-year Special General Meeting
3. Treasurer's report
4. Auditor's report
5. Election of office bearers for 2005
6. Any other business

Additional agenda items

Chris Sellathamby called for new items to be included in the agenda.

Dilu Frenando proposed that the following four items be discussed under any other business, as well as to move agenda item #6 to #5. Ramona Fernando seconded it. The house agreed to this motion.

- Conducting meetings
- Cooperation between the Treasurer and Auditor
- Dealing about allegations in public
- Solidarity

Minutes of the Special General Meeting

Raja Liyanage proposed that the minutes of the special general meeting held in August 2004 be approved; Dilu Fernando seconded it.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the special general meeting.

Treasurer's report

Ramona Fernando presented the Treasurer's report. Members requested many clarifications on the accounts presented. Questions were asked about the following:

- Payment to Neil Hewapathirana for building renovation – this payment was initially withheld because of a dispute on accounts payable but was approved by the house later at the AGM 2005- I.
- Shortfall of approximately \$ 800.00 from the sports encounter revenue (see bad debt item below)
- Excessive expenditure for administration including \$631.50 spent on refreshments (most spent on providing refreshments for the eight EC meetings held during the year)

- Spending for senior's events
- Use of funds received from bingo money raised by the Greenfield Cricket Club and earmarked for flood relief. Were these funds used for the annual 2004 Christmas/Appreciation Party? (see explanation by the ex-president on this issue).
- \$1000.00 donated from the general revenue fund to a Sri Lankan female who had lost her husband. The house was clearly unhappy of the distribution of money made in violation of the established policies and procedures of the SLCFA (the new committee was authorized to further investigate this matter).

Chris Senaratne proposed the following motion:

“This house is deeply concerned of the many unanswered, questionable expenditures incurred by the executive committee in 2004 in violation of the established bylaws, policies and procedures and therefore, strongly urges all incoming executive committees to strictly adhere to the rules of the association in all administration and financial matters.”

Sunil Ranasinghe seconded the motion.

Voted -- 18 yes

2 no

1 abstained; motion was carried

Auditor's report

Auditor's report was presented by Lakshaman Samarasinghe. He voiced concerns on poor budgeting practices, unresolved monetary issues, time management problems etc. He also made recommendations on project management.

Auditor's report was tabled.

a) Savithri Senaratne was asked whether she had any knowledge about the items that were purchased from Sri Lanka for sale at the Heritage Festival. She stated that the goods were handed over to the SLCFA. It was suggested that an inventory list be created for these items and all the other relevant items of the association.

b) Gothami Wickremasekara proposed to post the auditor's report on the SLCFA Website. Savithri Senaratne seconded it.

Voted – 12 yes

-- No

7 abstained; motion was carried

c) Bad Debt

Chris Senaratne proposed that the \$746.00 that has been recurring under accounts receivable be written off as a bad debt. This item arose from the shortfall of funds collected as bar sales at an Annual Sports Encounter (see above)

Gothami Wickramasekara seconded it.

Voted – 22 yes

0 no;

3 abstained; motion was carried

- Any Other Business

a) Conducting Meetings

Dilu Fernando proposed hiring of an external facilitator and a timekeeper to conduct the general meetings. Suresh Fernando seconded it.

Voted – 1 yes/ 13 no/ 4 abstained

Motion was denied

b) Cooperation Between the Treasurer and Auditor

Dilu discussed at length about need for cooperation between the auditor and the treasurer.

c) Allegations and Misunderstandings

Lakshaman explained that his statement at the previous general meeting regarding Maya and Priyantha Silva's membership dues was based on the membership list made available to him by the Treasurer, Ramona Fernando. Ramona Fernando stated that she received that document from the Membership Director, Suresh Fernando who had to explain the discrepancy in the membership list, membership dues and payments.

d) As the VP of the outgoing committee, Chris Sellathamby thanked the former committee and made a personal request of becoming a friendship association and summarized by requesting all to be considerate and thoughtful.

Election of new office bears

Election of the office bearers for 2005. Ackland Saram as the returning officer chaired the process and listed the 10 positions that needed to be filled.

President

Chris Senaratne Proposed by Anil Fernando, Seconded by Dilu Fernando. Elected by acclamation

Vice President

Jay Nagendran Proposed by Lakshaman Samarasinghe, Seconded by Shyamala Nagendran. Elected by acclamation

Secretary

Sunil Ranasinghe Proposed by Chris Senaratne, Seconded by Gothami Wickramasekera. Elected by acclamation

Treasurer

Lakshaman Samarasinghe Proposed by Ramona Fernando, Seconded by Pushpa Liyanage. Elected by acclamation

Director of Publicity and Communication

Ransirimal Fernando Proposed by Manel Fernando, Seconded by Miyuru Fernando. Elected by acclamation

Director of Projects and Fund Raising

Anil Fernando Proposed by Chris Senaratne, Seconded by Lakshaman Samarasinghe. Elected by acclamation

Director of Membership and Welfare

Gothami Wickramasekara Proposed by Chandrani Wijayasinghe, Seconded by Liyana Jayatilaka. Elected by acclamation

Director of Social and Recreational Activities

To be filled

Director of Cultural Affairs

To be filled

Heritage Committee—Pavilion Chairperson and Food Coordinator – vacant
Cultural Section Coordinator -- Lal Weera

Honorary Auditor

Mahinda Witharana Proposed by Ratnasiri Fernando, Seconded by Dilu Fernando.
Elected by acclamation

Building Management Committee

The house felt that the current building management committee’s term should be extended for another term subject to receiving the consent of the committee members.

Cultural School Sub-committee

The executive committee will look after the duties of this sub-committee.

Other Matters

Chris Seneratne was invited to take over as the president. Chris in his “inaugural speech” stated that he would like to implement structure, process and accountability by the committee, and commented on the democratic process of achieving this. He also requested the house to:

- a) consider extending the deadline for the payment of membership fees for this year to May 31 as the new Director was taking over only in March; and,
- b) the house to propose guidelines for spending limits by the EC.

- Suresh Fernando proposed to postpone the deadline for the payment of membership fees to May 31, 2005. Ackland Saram seconded it. House unanimously approved this motion.

- Ramona Fernando proposed a spending limit of \$30,000.00 from the Casino Fund by the committee. Savithri Senaratne seconded it. House approved this motion.

- Gothami Wickramasekera proposed to forget the past and move forward and not to dwell any further on past issues. Ackland Saram seconded it. The house approved this motion.

- Ackland Saram thanked Shyamala Nagendran for obliging to record the minutes.

- Chris Senaratne thanked everyone in attendance and promised a successful year.

Meeting was adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Shyamala Nagendran