



SLCFA Mid-Year General Meeting

MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order - The President, Asoke Weerasinghe, called the meeting to order at 2:30PM.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

Agenda adopted with the following alteration:

-The item "Financial Update" was moved to item 4.0 from 6.0.

The House accepted a motion to approve the amended agenda. Proposed by Chris Senaratne and seconded by Celia Daniel.

3.0 Update on Annual General Meeting Minutes

Items 5.0 and 7.0 of this year's MGM address matters arising from the AGM of January 31, 2009.

4.0 Financial Report

Lakshman Samarasinghe presented the Financial Status as of September 13, 2009.

-The Heritage Festival and Sports Encounter were money losing ventures this year.

-See attached Financial Report for details.

5.0 Heritage Festival - Future Participation (See attachment)

-Asoke Weerasinghe thanked all SLCFA members for their help this year with the Heritage Festival.

-Chris Senaratne invited to speak Re: Future Participation in Heritage Festival:

-He noted that the application is due in December for the upcoming year. He asked the membership in attendance for direction for the 2010 Festival.

-His suggestions:

- 1) 1 large tent instead of 2 tents; reserving a large area for the cultural display, and the smaller side for food preparation and sale.
- 2) Focus on cultural side; promoting Sri Lankan tourism and perhaps doing a raffle giveaway of a free flight to Sri Lanka.
- 3) Keep food variety to a minimum to simplify the process.

-Ramona Fernando believes we should move forward with Chris' suggestions.

-Lakshman Samarasinghe noted that we had to spend \$1000 to move materials from the SLCFA building, to and from the the Heritage Festival site. Rather than hiring labor, as was done this year, more young people should be recruited to participate.

-Chris reiterates his proposal of one tent.

- Asoke suggests having two tents.
- Lakshman suggests having one tent.
- Sherani Samaratunge supports having two tents.
- Chris Senaratne suggests the focus this year in food service should be on rice and curry.
- Gothami Wickramasekara believes that at least one short eat should be sold.
- Chris notes that the rolls did not sell well this year. The vegetarian roti were the best seller, the beef roti next, and the least popular were the beef rolls.
- Ramona Fernando and Gothami are in favor of outsourcing the short eats.
- Jayathilake asks if we will be able to recover the cost of equipment rental, if only one short eat is for sale.
- Asoke says we will have to explore the costs associated with selling one shorteat.
- Chris says profit margins are not the issue: the lack of volunteerism is the real challenge associated with the Heritage Festival.

-Asoke Weerasinghe proposes the following:

- 1/3 Cultural
- 2/3 Food Preparation & Service
- Rice & Curry
- Juice / Tea / Pop
- Find at least 1 Short eat to provide
- Encourage volunteerism

-Ramona Fernando suggests that if we can find someone motivated to run the cultural presentation, we should order a second tent. There is general agreement with this suggestion.

-Otherwise, there is a general concensus to Asoke's proposal.

-Asoke asks if there are any volunteers in attendance for the Cultural Coordinator position. Albert Fernando offers to help with the Cultural Coordinator position.

6.0 Building Renovation (See attachment)

-Asoke provided an update on how this Building Renovation project has come about.

-The plan is to lift the building and build a standard full-size basement, and renovate the kitchen & main floor.

-Asoke then drew everyone's attention to the terms of reference drafted by Lakshman for the project manager position (attached).

-Asoke states that the person appointed as a Project Manager should be compensated, as it is a lot of work and requires professional responsibility.

-Albert Fernando asked why only the building excavation is noted in the Building Renovation project outline.

-Asoke and Lakshman both noted that this is a phase plan. The first step is the excavation, and the next step is finishing.

-Raja Liyanage provided an update on how we have come to this point. He has been involved in this project from its inception (Plans to expand the building have been in discussion since 1996). At present, the city planning department requires a drawing of the basement plans - to build a basement that is a full-size foot print of the existing building.

- Lakshman clarified the positions of Project Manager / Consultant / Contractor.
- Ramona asked what Mano Senaratne's role will be, as he has been highly involved in the building project, but was unable to make this meeting.
- Bandula suggests that these guidelines may discourage Raja from taking on this position
- Asoke Weerasinghe says he does not want to pressure Raja into taking this role, by that the entire Executive Committee would appreciate a candidate such as Raja to accept the responsibility.
- Asoke asked Raja if he can assume the position of Project Manager, and fulfill the outlined duties. Raja states that he would like to consult with Mano Senaratne about a few issues.
- Asoke reiterates the question, and Raja Liyanage accepts the position of Project Manager for SLCFA Building Expansion.
- Asoke informs Raja that he would like for Raja to provide direction for the EC / SLCFA, and for him to take a proactive role in the project.

7.0 Membership Update - Guideline for Non-Member Participation

Gothami Wickramasekara provided a membership update:

-Members:	270	
-Life Members:	6 Families	(19 People)
-Couples:	21	(42 People)
-Families:	46	(177 People)
-Singles:	34	
-Student Singles:	12	
-Student Families:	1	(4 People)
-Affiliate Member:	1	(ABVA)

Asoke Weerasinghe tabled the issue of non-member participation, which was raised at the past AGM. There are 2 areas of membership to look at:

- 1) Member Representation: One must be a member to represent the SLCFA.
- 2) SLCFA Activities that are offered to the general public:
E.g. Bridge lessons, dance lessons, First Fridays, etc.

Asoke suggests that if a non-member wants to participate in any "public" activity, they will have to pay a user fee.

-If invited, they can attend free, but not on a regular basis. If they walk-in, they must pay a user fee.

Asoke asks if there is consensus amongst the quorum.

-Sunil states that it should not be an issue, as the SLCFA already uses this approach for paid functions (i.e. Sports Encounter banquet fees).

-Asoke asked Sharmini Senaratne to send an email to inform the membership of the user fee.

-Lakshman suggests a \$2.50 user fee.

-The first invite will be free, but every visit / participation thereafter will be fee per visit.

-Sharmini is to send an email notifying the SLCFA membership of this decision.

-Chris Senaratne suggests we should have a vote to show the number of people in favor of this decision

-Asoke's proposal:

1) Only members will be allowed to represent the association

2) The general public who wish to participate in SLCFA activities that free of charge to members, will have to pay a user fee established by the Executive Committee, to cover the cost of consumables.

Gothami proposed and Vibu Wickramasinghe seconds.

Vote in favor: Unanimous.

8.0 Casino Update

A Casino date has been allocated to the SLCFA on March 14 & 15, 2010 (Sunday and Monday).

-Starts at 9AM and ends at 3AM.

-Volunteers will be taken care of.

-Argyll Road Casino.

-Asoke states that Monday will be a real challenge to staff.

-4 Positions	- General Manager -	Asoke Weerasinghe
	- Assistant GM -	Sunil (last name?)
	- Count Room Supervisor	Chris Senaratne
	- Banker	Lakshman Samarasinghe

-Application due in November 2009.

9.0 Seniors' Function Update

-Celia Daniel provided an update.

-Sharmini Senaratne and Gothami Wickramasekara have agreed to pitch in for the remainder of the year, as Dilu Fernando was unable to remain involved in 2009.

-There were no events in July and August.

-Celia is planning to take the seniors out for lunch on October 17, 2009.

-Asoke encouraged membership to invite any seniors they know to get involved. Anyone 60+ is welcome.

10.0 Any other Business

10.1 Nilanga Wickramasinghe is acknowledged for her involvement as the Cultural Director for the Heritage Festival in 2009.

10.2 Albert Fernando has a notice to be sent out by Sharmini to the General Membership

10.3 There are beef rolls left over from the Heritage Festival. They are for sale for 75 cents / roll.

11.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:30PM.