



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
SRI LANKA-CANADA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION OF EDMONTON HELD ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019
AT THE SLCFA PREMISES, 2913-66 STREET,
EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

1.0 Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Ramona Fernando at 1.40 pm.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda: The proposed agenda was amended as follows:

****8.2 to read:** Resolutions were received prior to November 30, 2018

Motion: A motion to adopt the amended agenda was unanimously carried, proposed by Chris Senaratne and seconded by Sajani Samarasekara

3.0 Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on January 29, 2018

Motion: There being no amendments, A motion to adopt the 2018 AGM Minutes were unanimously carried, proposed by Lakshaman Samarasinghe and seconded by Rushan Amarawickrema.

4.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on January 28, 2018:

Chris questioned as to why the \$15,000 from AGLC was not utilized. This might impede the SLCFA from getting any more casinos in the future.

Ramona said that the Condo Association had imposed an electrical upgrade fee of \$7,200 X 3 installments total of \$ 21,600 and we would require the money for this purpose. The AGLC will be advised during the year.

5.0 President's Report:

The President, Ramona Fernando, read out her report on SLCFA activities for 2018 (see attached).

6.0 Treasurer's Report:

Jayathilake thanked Nishani, Sajani and Ruwan for helping with the financial statement.

Chris pointed out that Hifli and Chitra Marikar had been included in the membership list with a payment of \$30.00. Is this correct; and if not correct the membership list and the financial statements to reflect the \$30.00 as an "annual drop in user fee". The President and the Membership Director stated that they did not join as members and it is a mistake which will be corrected.

Lakshaman also questioned as to why the \$15,000 allocated for donations had not been given out.

Ramona explained that the unexpected raise in condo fees, amounting to \$7200.00 which had to be paid

by the end of November 2018, plus not having cash in hand as funds were tied up with deposits. However, \$7900.00 had already been given out as donations.

Chris Senaratne asked why there was an expense of \$408.00 for website/newsletter; there were no newsletters in 2018. Jayathilake explained that this was for Dot Easy to maintain the website and not for the newsletters.

Lakshaman requested a breakdown for the cultural expense of \$2255.00 Jayathilake said that Chethani Rathnayake was paid \$1000.00 for performing at Alberta Cultural Days; \$600.00 for Cecil Rathnayake for musical backing for the performance; \$140 for snacks for the participants; \$200 Honoraria for Indika Upamali who conducted the musical workshop; \$112.00 for snacks and \$200 for Ramona as reimbursement for paying in advance for the senior event and for the Musical Workshop in December 2018.

Sharmini Senaratne asked if the SLCFA received any money from the classes conducted by Chethani in the building which was given to her at no charge; and Gothami asked if she will continue with these classes. Ramona said that this was an agreement by the previous committee. Since Chethani was teaching the Sri Lankan children. However, she will not be doing this after this year, and she was also collecting the user fee from non-members

Mano also said that members should decide if there was any benefit in giving the SLCFA hall free of charge

Motion: Chris tabled the motion that the Financial Statement for 2018 be accepted subject to the proposed changes. Seconded by Anil Fernando.

7.0 Auditor's Report:

Ruwan Wanniarachchige Don was appointed Auditor by the EXCO. He is familiarizing himself with the Policies and Procedures but did hand over the books at the end of December 2018 prior to leaving for Sri Lanka.

8.0 New Business:

8.1 SLCFA Business Plan, SWOT Analysis and Budget

Ramona circulated a business plan, proposed budget and direction for the SLCFA for 2019. Her main goal is to engage youth in the SLCFA initiatives and activities. It would be helpful if youth were to actively participate in, for example: to help with setting up for functions, or booking the hall, caretaking of few odds and ends required. Also, may be helpful in doing a newsletter or maintaining the website.

Heritage: Anil tabled a request to participate in the 2019 Heritage festival. He presented the idea that the short eats would be supplied by contractors who would be taking the responsibility of supplying on consumption basis and handling the food supply and sale on that basis, but the responsibility of providing the rice and curry would be for those running the stall. There was a lengthy discussion on a \$19,000 disbursement on the proposed budget for taking part in the Heritage Festival for 2019. It was felt by most that not only would the SLCFA be responsible for all monetary commitment but would also have to provide man-power. With the aging membership it was quite unlikely that there would be any interest to commit for 3 whole days during the festival, but also the pre and post festival activities.

Albert said that he had spoken with the current executive of the Heritage Festival and he had suggested we could feature only the cultural aspect of the country. This idea was vetoed as the food was an integral part of the country and would not be ideal to have one without the other.

Chris and Mano both said that the budget seems to be viable, however proposed that once the next executive committee was in place this could be discussed in detail by the new committee.

Motion: Due to lack of clear strategy and lack of man power, it is proposed that the SLCFA should not participate in the 2019 Heritage Festival.

Proposed by Lakshaman Samarasinghe and Seconded by Vibu Wickremasinghe the motion was carried with 6 for, 4 against and 5 abstaining.

8.2 Resolutions:

- (a) **Academic Scholarship Requirements:** Proposed by Ramona Fernando and Seconded by Derrick Fernando

Add to existing requirements: To Volunteer minimum of 100 hours at the time of applying or commit to volunteer

Much discussion ensued on this resolution. Majority felt that the concept was good, but the hours were hard to monitor as well as maintaining the number of hours and deciding on the scholarship.

Motion: It was unanimously decided to add to existing requirements of the SLCFA Scholarship criteria to volunteer minimum of 50 hours at the time of applying to commit to volunteer.

- (b) **Request for One Free Hall rental for SLCFA Executive Committee members Proposed** by Liyana Jayathilake and seconded by Nishani Jayathilake to encourage and appreciate members who take up executive positions in the SLCFA.

This idea was debated as volunteers also may request the same privilege since the committee was not only the ones who worked towards the common goals and activities of the association.

Mano was of the impression that if younger people could be recruited it would not be a bad idea to offer something along this line.

Motion: It was agreed that a vote to be taken and 22 voted for, 5 against and 3 abstained.

- (c) **Resolution:** The Association shall hold its Annual General Meeting no later than 60 days after the end of the fiscal year; proposed by Ramona Fernando and seconded by Derrick Fernando
Since the auditor/treasurer may take winter holidays during December/January, and the standards require audits to be done within reasonable time after closing books for the accounting cycle whether it would be acceptable to postpone the AGM to end of February.

Chris said that this would mean changing the By-Laws which would be a great hassle. Since it meant only moving the date by a month behind, i.e. from end January to end February, the work involved would not be worth it.

Motion: Unanimously request from members to withdraw the Resolution. Done.

8.3 Summary of Motions Carried During t 2019 AGM

1. Adoption of the amended agenda.
2. Adoption of 2018 AGM minutes.
3. Approval of the 2018 Financial Statements with the proposed changes.
4. **Academic Scholarship Requirements to Volunteer minimum of 50 hours at the time of applying or commit to volunteer.**
5. **Request for One Free Hall rental for SLCFA Executive Committee members.**
6. **Due to lack of clear strategy and lack of man power, it is proposed that the SLCFA should not participate in the 2019 Heritage Festival.**

9.1 Election of Office Bearers for 2019- Returning Officer-Chris Senaratne

President Ramona Fernando invited Chris Senaratne, the Returning Officer to conduct the election of the office bearers for 2019 and vacated the chair.

Chris Senaratne reported that he had not received any nominations in advance and opened the floor for nominations. The results of the elections are as follows:

President: Ramona Fernando, proposed by Nelum Ranasinghe and seconded by Pushpa Liyanage (elected by acclamation)

Vice-President: Vibu Wickremasinghe proposed by Gothami Wickramasekara and seconded by Viraj De Silva (elected by acclamation)

Secretary: Ruwanthi Kariyawasam, proposed by Ramona Fernando and seconded by Anil Fernando

Treasurer: Ruwan Wanniarachchige Don, proposed by Liyana Jayathilake and seconded by Ramona Fernando (elected by acclamation)

Director of Cultural Activities: Sajani Samarasekara, proposed by Nelum Ranasinghe and seconded by Nimmi Namasivayam

Director of Membership and Welfare: Nimmi Namasivayam, proposed by Sajani Samarasekara and seconded by Lakshaman Samarasinghe

Director of Projects and Fundraising: Anil Fernando, proposed by Liyana Jayathilake and seconded by Sajani Samarasekara

Director of Social and Recreational Activities: Celia Daniel, proposed by Ramona Fernando and seconded by Anil Fernando

Director of Publicity and Communications: Jehan Fernando, proposed by Gothami Wickremasekara and seconded by Rushan Amarawickrama

- 9.2 Honorary Auditor:** Chris Senaratne, proposed by Anil Fernando and seconded by Gothami Wickremasekara. Chris Senaratne stated that it was not proper to elect the Returning officer to a position in the SLCFA. The EC could take it up at their first meeting and if they are unable to come up with a suitable person, he would have no objection to his name standing for the position

10.0 Any Other Business:

The newly elected President, Ramona Fernando thanked the members for voting her for the second year. She also thanked everyone who agreed to serve on the committee

Mano requested that he be relieved of being the First Friday coordinator.

- 11 Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.