

January 31, 2010

## **SLCFA Annual General Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

**1.0 Call to Order** – The President, Asoke Weerasinghe, called the meeting to order at 2:30PM, with 29 members present.

#### **2.0 Adoption of Agenda**

Agenda adopted with the following changes / additions:

- 5.1 Adoption of MGM minutes
- 5.2 Matters arising from the MGM minutes
- 9.1 Building Expansion draft plans
- 9.2 Alberta Cultural and Community Spirit
- 10.2 Non-member User Fees
- 10.3 First Friday Coordinator
- 10.4 Annual Events
- 10.5 Seniors' Functions

Proposed by Celia Daniel / Seconded by Ramona Fernando

#### **3.0 Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2009.**

Correction: 7.0 Auditor's Report: First paragraph to be deleted. Replaced with the sentence "Auditor's report presented by Lakshaman Samarasinghe."

Proposed by Chris Senaratne / Seconded by Jay Withanachchi

#### **4.0 Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2009.**

- Mano Senaratne asked about the status of the Bereavement Funds (item 8.4a).
- Lakshaman provided an update on the Bereavement Fund.
- No other matters.

#### **5.0 Mid Year General Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2009.**

##### **5.1 Adoption of Mid Year General Meeting Minutes held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2009.**

7.0 Number of votes must be included. Also have to note that there were no abstentions. Mano Senaratne noted that it would have been ideal to take 2 separate votes on this matter, as 2 motions were passed.

8.0 Correction of position and name. Casino Fundraiser's Alternate GM - Sunil Ranasinghe

Proposed by Chris Senaratne / Seconded by Celia Daniel.

##### **5.2 Matters arising from the Mid Year General Meeting Minutes.**

7.0 Mano Senaratne believes that charging fees is not legal. In his opinion, if the funds come from the AGLC exclusively, non-members and members cannot be treated differently. He requests the Auditor's opinion in this regard. His question: "If Casino funds are used, can a distinction be made between members and non-members?" This issue to be discussed further under 10.2. of the current AGM

#### **6.0 President's Report:**

Asoke Weerasinghe noted that this year the Executive Committee (EC) had two main objectives to attend to:

- 1) Non-member participation issue
- 2) Building Expansion

The non-member participation issue was a controversial one. The EC made a decision. It is a starting point which will be further evaluated at this AGM (10.2).

As far as building expansion goes, preliminary plans have been put in place. They will be discussed at this AGM. Once construction begins, it is expected to last approximately 3 months.

The yearly events took place with success. The Sports Encounter and Annual Picnic were both well executed and well attended.

The Heritage Festival was a challenging event in 2009. The weather was not agreeable, and some essential services were unavailable at times. Some decisions have been made about the Heritage Festival, going forward, to help things work well in the future.

Asoke acknowledged the EC for being a committed group this year. He thanked each EC member individually for their contribution this past year. He also took the time to thank non-EC members who were highly involved in the SLCFA in 2009.

#### **7.0 Treasurer's Report**

Lakshaman Samarasinghe presented the financial statements and asks if there are any questions.

Mano Senaratne asks a question about the value of the SLCFA building. He suggests it may be a good idea to have an appraisal, and to state market value of the building in the SLCFA financial statements.

Mahinda Witharana noted that its not normally protocol to state market value in a Financial Statement. It is suggested that market / appraised value is included as a note in the SLCFA Financial Statements.

Mano Senaratne advised this, because the SLCFA used its general funds to contribute to the original building purchase. The SLCFA provided about 30% of the funds. The SLCFA should

therefore account for the equity it owns, based on 30% ownership. Going forward, the capital asset value and market value will be included in future financial statements.

Both the SLCFA and AGLC ownership positions will be noted for both amounts (capital asset and appraised value).

Lakshaman thanked Ramona Fernando for completing the audit of the financial statements.

No other questions were raised.

## **8.0 Auditor's Report**

Ramona thanked Lakshaman for keeping thorough books.

She had two queries. Firstly, with regards to the SLCSF, there was a discrepancy between a decision made towards how SLCSF Funding is provided, and how it was done this past year. This will be discussed in 10.1. Her other query related to the implementation of User Fees for non-members. Only \$5.00 had been collected in 2009. This will be discussed in 10.2.

See attachment for full Auditor's report.

Mano Senaratne asked if it is legal to charge fees to non-members if all funding for an event is provided by the AGLC. The Auditor stated that it is not legal.

## **9.0 Building Expansion**

### **9.1 Preliminary Draft Provided by Architect:**

There were several members with objections to the preliminary draft provided by the architect.

Lakshaman believes that there should be a general meeting with the architect, to draw up new plans. Asoke suggests having a meeting with the architect before the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2010. The meeting will be to achieve 2 purposes:

- 1) Whether the chosen architect is really the best for the SLCFA.
- 2) For the membership to communicate directly with the architect.

The membership in attendance at the AGM had so many varying opinions relating to design, that it was decided that a meeting of the membership should take place, to achieve a unified vision for the expansion. Then the architect will be contacted for a meeting. The membership meeting to discuss the building expansion will take place on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 at 7:00PM, at the SLCFA premises.

### **9.2 Alberta Cultural and Community Spirit**

To be discussed and pursued at a later date.

## **10.0 New Business**

### **10.1 Sri Lanka Canada Scholarship Foundation**

Chris Senaratne spoke about the SLCSF.

Historically, it was approved that the SLCFA would make contributions to match what was contributed by the association members.

Celia Daniel noted that the AGLC had questioned as to why funds are being sent out of the country. Why aren't they being used to help the local community.

The SLCSF was not registered in the past as a charitable organization. It is now registered, so its donations are tax deductible.

Mano Senaratne suggested that money should be channelled through the SLCFA.

Lakshaman questioned the reason behind channelling the money through the SLCFA. If it is, the individual contributors will not receive credit for a tax deduction. As well, it complicates things for the SLCFA.

Asoke Weerasinghe asked the membership in attendance if they are willing to approve a said amount of money for donation to the SLCSF. If it is okay, it will be taken to the AGLC for approval. Asoke proposes that the SLCFA donate \$3000 to the SLCSF, subject to AGLC approval. Chinthu Kulatunge Seconded. Approved.

## **10.2 Non-member User Fees**

Mano Senaratne noted three things:

- 1) If the SLCFA is collecting fees, there must be a system in place to collect. The coordinators have declined their willingness to collect.
- 2) He suggested charging a yearly fee, rather than individual outing fees.
- 3) Mano Senaratne reiterated that he does not believe charging user fees is legal, for events where there are no general fund disbursements.

Asoke Weerasinghe stressed that the intention was not to burden event coordinators.

Savitri Senaratne asked why not pay for certain things for each event with general funds. This will circumvent the AGLC fund use legality conflicts.

The question will be asked of the AGLC of the charging of user fees for wholly AGLC funded activities and a decision will be made from there.

## **10.3 First Friday Coordinator**

Mano Senaratne would like to resign from this position. He would like Jayathilake to take over. Jayathilake was not present at the time this item was brought up. Mano will continue on as coordinator until he finds a successor.

#### **10.4 Events**

Ramona Fernando wants to note that there needs to be clarity when invitations are sent out (i.e. January 2010 First Friday event). Mano replied that things change very rapidly, from when invitations go out, to a few days prior to an event.

Sports Activities – Manjula Dissanayake requested that the gymnasium be booked every Friday for volleyball. As it stands, on the first Friday of every month, the gym was not being booked. The membership in attendance agreed with this request.

#### **10.5 Seniors**

Dilu Fernando will be back to coordinate these functions in 2010.

The seniors thoroughly enjoy the functions. When the building improvements begin, an alternative facility will be sought for these gatherings.

#### **11.0 Election of Office Bearers – Returning Officer P.A. Saram**

**President – Asoke Weerasinghe** – Nominated by Gothami Wickramasekara and Seconded by Jay Withanachchi. Unanimous approval (UA).

**Vice President – Chris Senaratne** – Nominated by Asoke Weerasinghe and Seconded by Vibu Wickramasinghe. UA.

**Secretary – Manjula Dissanayake** – Nominated by Chris Senaratne and Seconded by Gothami Wickramasekara. UA.

**Treasurer – Lakshman Samarasinghe** – Nominated by Ramona Fernando and Seconded by Sharmini Senaratne. UA.

**Director Social and Recreational Activities – Chintha Kulatunga** – Nominated by Sharmini Senaratne and Seconded by Chandrasiri Wickramasekara.

**Director of Membership and Welfare – Gothami Wickramasekara** – Nominated by Sharmini Senaratne and Seconded by Chintha Kulatunga. UA.

**Director of Cultural Activities – Sharmini Senaratne** – Nominated by Chintha Kulatunga and Seconded by Celia Daniel. UA.

**Director of Publicity & Communications – Celia Daniel** – Nominated by Helene Marathalingam and seconded by Ramona Fernando. UA

**Director of Projects and Fundraising** – Left Vacant

**Honorary Auditor – Ramona Fernando** – Nominated by Celia Daniel and Seconded by Sharmini Senaratne. UA.

**Coordinator of Seniors' Activities – Dilu Fernando** – Nominated by Helene Marthalingam and seconded by Ramona Fernando. UA.

**Academic Scholarship Committee – Nimal Rajapakse, Gothami Wickramasekara and Chris Senaratne** to continue on this committee.

## **12.0 Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 PM. Proposed by Savitri Senaratne and Seconded by Vibu Wickramasekara.