

Minutes of the ZAWA Annual General Meeting

Held on 6 September 2015 at the Moresby Hall, Moresby St, South Perth WA

Present (33):

Pervez Mistry	Farzana Irani	Shahrinaz Irani
Farida Madan	Zerophie Deboo	Homyar Randeria
Kaizeen Madan	Porus Randeria	Nazneen Randeria
Cyrus Mistry	Villie Mistry	Mehernosh Buhariwalla
Dilshad Buhariwalla	Darayes Divecha	Dinaz Divecha
Mahrukh Bhamgara	Rohinton Bhamgara	Shahpoor Kalantary
Tanaz Ghadiali	Ronnie Mistry	Armaiti Mistry
Kuky Wadia	Homee Wadia	Hoshang Deboo
Anahita Irani	Behram Irani	Mahrukh Pestonji
Farzana Khambatta	Ross Khambatta	Villie Khambatta
Khurshed Fitter	Anahita Fitter	Aspi Madan

Proxies (8):

Received From:

Behram Cooper
Shernavaz Cooper
Geive Nanavati
Kermin Nanavati
Jehangir Irani
Zeenia Irani
Roshan Kalantary
Goolbanu Rostami

Assigned to:

Pervez Mistry
Pervez Mistry
Pervez Mistry
Pervez Mistry
Farzana Irani
Farzana Irani
Shahpoor Kalantary
Shahpoor Kalantary

- Total members present: 33, and total proxies received: 8. Total representation was 41 - hence quorum was formed and the AGM was called into meeting by the Chairperson, Pervez Mistry.
- The meeting **commenced** with a short prayer at 1:50 p.m.
- The Chairperson set out the Agenda as per the Notice of the AGM.
- Pervez mentioned that a couple of committee members were unable to attend the AGM, namely: Farita Khambatta (Secretary) and Mitra Aspandiar (Committee Member).
- **Minutes of the Previous AGM** held on 19 Oct 2014, were read by the Chairperson (in place of the Secretary).
 - Matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM: none.
 - *Proposed* by Darayes Divecha and *seconded* by Ronnie Mistry. Adopted.
- **Chairperson's Report:**
 - The chairperson thanked the outgoing ZAWA Committee for their hard work and dedication.
 - A review of the past year's activities was presented.
 - Pervez mentioned that this past year had shown a lack of enthusiasm from the community, and that the membership needed to get over the various "personality issues" that deter participation.
 - He also said that by boycotting events, neither the individual, family, nor the community benefit.

- The issue of hosting the next World Congress was also mentioned, and the Chairperson said that the selection committee were keen to see that ZAWA is also on board for the proposal, along with other Australian associations.
- The report ended with Pervez once again thanking the current committee, and thanked the members for the opportunity to serve as chairperson.
- *Proposed* by Shahpoor Kalantary and *seconded* by Hoshang Deboo. Adopted.

- **Treasurer's Report:**

- The treasurer, Shahrinaz Irani, presented a summary of the past year's financials.
- Mehernosh Buhariwalla and Porus Randeria pointed out that in the Auditor's report, the dates in the header said '2014' instead of the correct '2015'. Shahrinaz would request the auditor to correct the mistake.
- Homyar Randeria enquired about the \$2000 hall hire bond. Shahrinaz explained that this was a bond from the last financial year that had been refunded in this financial year.
- *Proposed* by Mehernosh Buhariwalla and *seconded* by Homyar Randeria (*pending corrections mentioned above*). Adopted.

- **Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members:**

- The Chairperson explained that all seven current committee members are stepping down from their positions, but as no nominations have been received, a new committee must be formed from those in attendance.
- Pervez asked for any nominations from the floor, but there were no volunteers.
- Shahpoor Kalantary enquired as to why the current committee, with the exception of Pervez, want to step down when they haven't yet reached their three-year maximum. The general response was that the committee was stepping down due to personal commitments.
- Kuky Wadia mentioned that with nobody taking any interest in serving on the committee, perhaps it's time to consider that ZAWA's time has passed and perhaps wind down the association.
- Homee Wadia suggested we get the youth to take an active role, but Pervez mentioned that although we currently have two youth members on the committee, various efforts at getting other youth involved have been fruitless. He mentioned that last year there was an invitation sent to the whole community inviting all youth to organize the forthcoming Khordad Sal function, but there was no interest.
- Anahita Fitter said that the youth don't want to come because their voices are not being heard and they feel that ZAWA events are like a circus.
- Pervez said that it's up to parents to encourage their kids to participate in community affairs.
- Kuky Wadia said that there was no enthusiasm left in ZAWA, and it's been a gradual decline – not something that's happened overnight.
- Homee Wadia said "it's the little things that matter" explaining that things were different in "our time" such as the website was more attractive, it was regularly updated, and people were accessing events and other information via the website.
- Kuky Wadia asked if the ZAWA membership numbers had declined, and Pervez responded that even if people hadn't renewed their membership, there are new arrivals joining, and numbers have remained relatively steady – perhaps at 80% of what they were 5-6 years ago.
- Kuky Wadia mentioned that we need to rejuvenate ZAWA.
- Homee Wadia said that in the past it had been suggested to trim the ZAWA Committee size to five rather than the current seven. Perhaps this could be a helpful change.
- Shahpoor Kalantary said that as a community, it needs to be decided if ZAWA is going to stay, otherwise the money might as well be distributed to charities. Shahpoor went on to explain that the older generation in the room needs to support the newer generation or 'new blood', saying 'let's move on'.
- Anahita Fitter said that people in the community have always been ready to help if there have been any functions or events. It is not necessary to be on the committee to help out.

- Pervez Mistry said that it is one thing to help with functions, but people also need to be attending these functions to show support.
- On a side note, Homee Wadia said approximately 1-2 years ago he suggested inviting Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur to Perth. He was disappointed with the reply he received stating that now was not a good time to call Ervad Dastur. Pervez Mistry explained that the committee had already been working to organise for Ervad Parvez Bajan to come to Perth, and it was not a good time to organise another Dasturji to come to Perth.
- Mehernosh Buhariwalla suggested a caretaker committee be formed to organize an EGM, to be held after about a month, where the issue of trimming the number of committee positions - and potentially winding down the association - would be discussed. Anahita Fitter and Villie Mistry reported that they do not want ZAWA to close down.
- Anahita Fitter and Villie Mistry said you need like-minded people on the committee. Pervez replied that it's good to have diverse viewpoints but not necessarily a group who will only agree with each other.
- Kuky Wadia said that the formation of BAWAZ has fractured the ZAWA membership.
- Mehernosh Buhariwala stated that no one is turning up at most events.
- Someone mentioned that there are many people who attend all the functions but don't want to come on the committee.
- Homiyar Randeria said we should vote today whether to wind down ZAWA.
- Dilshad Buhariwala explained that members who are not present at the AGM today should be given the above information first and an opportunity to come on board the ZAWA committee, if no one puts their hands up today. Pervez agreed that since the topic of 'winding down' is a major one and wasn't on the agenda, a special meeting needs to be called at a later date.
- Pervez mentioned that if a smaller "caretaker" committee were to be formed for this purpose, then the approval of the membership would be required as not only would the smaller size contravene the ZAWA Constitution, but Pervez would be serving on the committee for longer than the maximum three years. The membership approved the measure by consensus.
- All committee members present agreed to temporarily stay on for this purpose of forming this caretaker committee.
- After further discussions about winding down the association, Shahpoor Kalantary volunteered himself to serve on a new committee and began asking those present to help form a new committee. Various individuals agreed to form a new committee, and positions are as follows:
 - **Chairperson:** Shahpoor Kalantary (*nominated by Dilshad Buhariwalla, seconded by Anahita Fitter*)
 - **Vice-Chairperson:** Zerophie Deboo (*incumbent*)
 - **Treasurer:** Darayes Divecha (*nominated by: Homiyar Randeria, seconded by Hosi Deboo*)
 - **Secretary:** Homee Wadia (*nominated by Anahita Fitter, seconded by Mahrukh Bhamgara*)
 - **Committee Member 1:** Cyrus Mistry (*nominated by Mehernosh Buhariwalla, seconded by Villie Khambatta*)
 - **Committee Member 2:** Anahita Fitter (*nominated by Khurshed Fitter, seconded by Villie Mistry*)
 - **Committee Member 3:** Tanaz Ghadiali (*nominated by Shahpoor Kalantary, seconded by Dinaz Divecha*)

- **Bid Proposal for World Zoroastrian Congress 2018:**

- The ZAWA Committee was informed, at the close of business on the preceding Friday, that the proposal was not yet ready for presenting.
- However, as some of the main congress proponents were present for the AGM, the Chairperson opened the floor to questions.
- Mehernosh Buhariwalla asked who the responsible entity was; Pervez replied that this is something that would have been addressed in the proposal, and this question was raised at the

July 26th community meeting; one option was to form a third association whose sole purpose was to facilitate the congress.

- Nazneen Randeria suggested that the formation of a third association is something that shouldn't even be discussed at this AGM, and that one association needs to be responsible for any financial liability.
- Mahrukh Pestonji mentioned that BAWAZ (Business Association of WA) would be the sponsoring association.
- Nazneen Randeria said that, as this is a business-type event, BAWAZ should proceed as planned and ZAWA should have no liability. Pervez replied that this type of event is a religious/cultural one, in which case ZAWA should rightfully be the main proponent, plus an incentive to hosting such an event is the potential profit that can be made for the association.
- Mehernosh Buhariwalla suggested that if BAWAZ has taken the lead and is willing to accept full liability, then ZAWA should not be involved.
- The following resolution was passed by general consensus:
 - *"Be it resolved that the Zoroastrian Association of Western Australia Inc. (ZAWA) does not object to the Business Association of West Australian Zoroastrians Inc. (BAWAZ) proposing to host the World Zoroastrian Congress 2018. As BAWAZ is an incorporated association governed by the Associations Act of Western Australia, we wish them all the success in this endeavour. ZAWA accepts no financial liability or expects any financial benefit from this project."*
 - *Proposed by Porus Randeria, seconded by Kukee Wadia.*
- Darayes Divecha asked if this means ZAWA will not support the Congress in any way, i.e. moral support or manpower. Pervez clarified that it is only ZAWA, as an entity, that will not bear any responsibility, but ZAWA member are of course free to volunteer themselves.
- Villie Mistry asked if there was a conflict of interest, based on the fact that several of the new ZAWA Committee members were also serving on the BAWAZ Committee.
 - Farida Madan also suggested that this is a conflict of interest.
 - Mehernosh Buhariwalla replied that 'conflict of interest' is a broad term, but as long as the ZAWA Committee members put ZAWA's interests first, there's no issue. Plus, as long as they openly declare any potential conflict of interest, there shouldn't be a problem.
 - Pervez also reiterated that conflict of interest, as defined in our constitution, means that an individual cannot stand to make a personal gain from their position on the committee.
 - Some attendees suggested it was offensive to accuse anyone of not understanding a committee member's responsibilities regarding 'conflict of interest', but Pervez advised that since this is an AGM, all members are free to express any opinion or question and this is the proper forum to be addressing such issues.

- **Any Other Business:**

- Nil

- The meeting **adjourned** with a short prayer at 3:30 p.m.



Pervez Mistry, Chairperson

(14/09/2015)