



**ICCC Annual General Body Meeting Held on Saturday - April 21, 2018 at  
East India Restaurant - 1993 Robertson Road, Ottawa, between 2 PM to 5PM**

**Minutes of Meeting**

Kanwal Talwar, President presided. Chan Chandramouli, Secretary scribed the proceedings. 28 Members present & 48 proxies counted. Quorum criteria met & president called the meeting to order. A list of the ICCC members who passed away since the last AGM was displayed on the projector screen. A minute of silence was observed in their honour.

1. Approval of the Agenda

President requested agenda approval. Prabir Neogi moved that agenda be approved. It was seconded by Surinder Chhura. All in favour and carried.

2 Approval of 2017 AGM & SGM Minutes

Before the meeting, Aleyamma Samuel had sent an email to correct the charitable status and incorporation information stated in the AGM minutes. The correction is as follows: charitable status was obtained in 1973 and Provincial incorporation was done in 1977. John Samuel mentioned that AGM minutes should be corrected to reflect that “so and so moved” instead of motioned – such reference found in several items. With above comments, Nand Tandon moved that the AGM minutes be approved and seconded by Krishan Gupta. Motion carried.

With regards to the SGM – Nov 42017, Nitya remarked that the minutes should include his reason for not supporting the amended resolution which was voted at the meeting. As per Nitya, the members present do not have the right to amend the initial resolution circulated to all the members and thus the action to amend was unconstitutional. Thus, he along with his proxies declined to support the amended resolution. With this comment, Nitya moved that the SGM minutes be approved and John Samuel seconded it. Motion carried.

3. President’s Report

Kanwal Talwar presented the first part of his report focusing on the various ICCC programs, events collaborated, fundraising initiatives. He emphasized the need for “thinking outside the box” given the changing times and thus the embarking of Hubs & Programs where ICCC is at the Hub and maintain/interact via spokes with Indo-Canadian & mainstream groups sharing ICCC vision. In addition to the regular activities of ICCC Seniors (weekly meet, Picnic, Trip, Seminars), Social Network of Women (S.N.O.W - Int. Women’s Day & fundraising), Speaker’s Forum, ICCC led some key initiatives. These

include (i) ICCC Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship for Youth segment wherein 5 candidates of various ethnic background were awarded \$500, recognizing their academic accomplishments and contribution to the larger society, (ii) Coalition initiative through which several Indo-Canadian groups brought together to conduct special events such as Parvasi Bharathiya Divas day, Holi celebration on the Hill, monthly communique to the ICCC members, (iii) ICCC web portal enhancements, notably the community events calendar and the directory.

Several members congratulated the board for their efforts and accomplishments. Nirmala Chopra suggested that ICCC should consider participation in Earth Day due to the importance of ecology and impact on the larger society. Nitya Varma moved to accept the achievements report and was seconded by Nirmala Chopra.

#### 4. Ratification of the appointments to the Board of Directors

The following names were announced by Kanwal Talwar as new members of the board: Karunakar Reddy Papala, Prabir Neogi, Aasha Mehta, and Anish Mehra whose present role as ex-officio renamed as Director, continuity with the past. Nitya Varma moved that these appointments be confirmed, with Nand Tandon seconding. Motion carried and the new directors were congratulated.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report

Chan Chandramouli began with the opening remarks that the preparation of the report was made very easy thanks to the diligent initiative of Anil Agrawal who developed a thorough and complex Excel worksheet to track the fiscal inflows & outflows at micro level. He thanked Anil Agrawal for the on-going support. Nand Tandon and few other members suggested that money received for life membership should be augmented with the capital account and not allocated to operational expense. The President remarked that the board is very conscious on protecting the capital and try to minimize financial burden on ICCC by seeking grant from various sources like High Commission of India, Summer Job programs, etc.

Nitya Varma moved to approve Treasurer's report, seconded by Naveen Patni. Motion carried with all in favour.

#### 6. Constitution & By-Law Amendments

Kanwal Talwar thanked the constitution sub-committee (Shiv Chopra (late), Prabir Neogi, Anish Mehra and Anil Agrawal who joined in Jan 2018) for conducting the research, analysis of the ICCC by-laws and recommending several simple amendments to meet the immediate concerns. They are endorsed by the board for membership consideration and approval. He also mentioned that the proposed items are straightforward and "low-hanging fruits" enabling easy implementation.

Nitya Varma wanted to know if the proposed timeframe of May-June could conflict with Industry Canada requirement for charitable entities to hold AGM within 90 days post the fiscal year-end. Karunakar informed that the condition is up to 1.5 years. Nitya also suggested that the board should ensure other amendments have no contradiction with existing laws, including proxy changes. Some members expressed concern that this agenda item may not be conforming with the constitution, since

the members were not provided complete information three (3) weeks in advance as required in the by-laws. Prabir Neogi checked relevant article 38 of the by-laws and indicated some room for interpretation. Notwithstanding members recommended that a special meeting be planned with adequate notice to deal with this item.

#### 7. 2018-19 Budget

Chan Chandramouli presented a budget for the on-going operations which projected total allocation of \$22K to conduct various programs, participation in community events, and ICCC administration. Though ICCC by-laws called for the presentation & approval of a budget for the ensuing year at the AGM, such was not adhered. Thus, this board took the initiative for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. Nitya Varma moved that the budget be approved, recognizing that the board has the discretion to manage the overall budget in the most appropriate manner. It was seconded by Karunakar Papala and carried with full support.

#### 8. Meditation & Peace Gardens

Following a brief bio/snack break, Kanwal Talwar resumed his presentation (2<sup>nd</sup> phase) to describe 2018 & beyond program. The thrusts are: enhanced communication, leveraging on social media, website content augmentation, interactive forum through virtual hub, develop promotional materials (similar to the one handed out at the meeting), launch membership drive, fundraising initiatives, ICCC signature event & special projects.

Subsequently, Karunakar Papala introduced Marilyn (an invited guest of the Gardening by Design Inc) who gave a presentation on the various concepts and elements considered for the meditation & peace garden development. GBD is engaged as a consultant advisor to develop a proposal. Karunakar proceeded to describe a preliminary project plan for this Spiritual Hub option including an estimate of 2018 budget. ICCC has not selected a specific site for this project, though some discussions are on-going with Dr. Shiv Jindal in regards to a parcel of land on Mitch Owen road. The technical proposal being developed by GBD is transferable easily for any site. Karunakar also put forward Option B (Sports Hub) wherein ICCC to partner with the Nepean field hockey club (primed by Sandeep Chopra – son of late Dr. Shiv Chopra) & similar to the previous option provided a budget estimate for 2018. The third option is the on-going search of a vacant land/building. In all cases, the ultimate objective is the fulfillment of a physical community centre with a horizon of 5-6 years. Several comments & concerns were raised. A few felt that option #1 may be duplicating/competing with other meditation/peace centers. Some felt that the concepts were still vague & the board should focus on a single solution. Others were uncomfortable to make a decision as they felt that not enough was planned for thorough discussions/analysis.

Nitya wanted to know why his report on the property project was not sent to the membership. The president responded that by the time his report was received, all the other reports were reorganized and packaged for distribution. Thus, Nitya's report couldn't be included. However, the board had prepared a response to the concerns raised by Nitya and made copies of both for distribution at the meeting. Notwithstanding, Nitya's request for reading his report was accepted and he did so.

## 9. Community Centre

Kanwal Talwar wanted to table a special resolution on the future plans to continue explore Spiritual & Sports Hub options as explained in the previous section with appropriate special budget approval; in addition, give authority to the board make a conditional offer on physical hub (i.e. purchase of land/building) option with a ceiling of \$750K. As explained in the previous section, many members were unwilling to support any resolution. Further they suggested that the board should hold a special general body meeting in 45-60 days wherein this matter should be exclusively addressed.

## 10. Other business

John Samuel commented that the “Hall of Fame” page of ICCC portal overlooked the significant contribution of some key persons (Diju Raha, Late Dr. Asim Chauduri, Nitya Varma, Aleyamma Samuel & others). He suggested removing the information in that section, pending inclusion of ICCC history & concentrate on finding a suitable venue for a permanent centre and offer services sought by the larger community. More specifically, John moved that the ICCC develop a virtual Hall of Fame to: a) recognize the contributions of its members living or not; b) appreciate and applaud Indo-Canadians in mainstream Ottawa; and c) help improve the profile of Indo-Canadians in the City. It was seconded by Nitya Varma & carried.

11. Prabir Neogi moved that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Karunakar Papala & formally closed at 5pm.