

Cowichan Intercultural and Immigrant Aid Society (CIS)

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Minutes of AGM Tuesday June 25, 2013

Present: Piara Dhillon, Cindy Carleton, Bill Robson, Derek Gibson, Byron Johnston, Bonnie Murray, Helga Lambrecht, Francoise Moulin, Demy McEvoy, Christine Chan, Lynn Weaver, Gus Williams, Dilbert Garcia, Joerg Rosenthal, Michelle Croissant, Angie Martell, Melba Carlson, Pema Wanchen, Ragnhild Richter-Struebe, Ilona Vaillancourt, Emma Koch, Randy Noble, Ajit Bahia, Ray Anthony, Dave Martell, Ilse Neusser, Ann Matheson, Kate Roberts, Michelle Redfern, Shahla Atrchi, Amrik Prihar, Rick Germann, Yui Sakuma, Jarnail Kang, Consuelo Teran, Kalzang Dorje, Pip Woodcock, Lorna Stewart.

1. **Welcome:** Derek Gibson (President) welcomed everyone present
2. **Call to Order:** at 6:05pm; a quorum was established
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Anne Matheson moved that the Agenda be accepted, seconded by Michelle Croissant – MOTION APPROVED
4. **Approval of Minutes from AGM June 27, 2012:** Derek discussed the fact that at the last AGM, the appointment of the auditor was postponed to a later date. This was then done at a Board meeting. Tonight, it will be done officially. Helga Lambrecht moved that the Minutes be accepted, seconded by Ajit Bahia – MOTION APPROVED
5. **President's Report:** Report by Derek Gibson. Reviewed collaboration with other societies including Walk of Nations, Volunteer Cowichan and VIRCS. ELSA classes now offered at a higher level. Software developed for Settlement Services with Demy McEvoy and Michelle Redfern. This software will be marketed to other societies. Challenges are coming up, as all Provincial government services will be taken over by the Federal government, April 2014. Derek introduced Demy McEvoy who introduced Dilbert Garcia, one of her settlement clients
6. **Guest Speaker - Dilbert Garcia:** Dilbert talked about how Demy helped him and his family from the Philippines, become more aware of the Canadian culture and all of its regulations and requirements. He appreciates all the work that she has done for him. Derek thanked Dilbert and then introduced the new Executive Director, Lynn Weaver
7. **Executive Director's Report:** Lynn Weaver reviewed highlights of the year including 4 new staff being hired, and also acknowledged Christine Chan as she starts her 22nd year with the Society. Lynn commented on the programs that are being run by the society and the fact that this is the 32nd anniversary of the Society. Lynn introduced Michelle Redfern, who introduced the next guest speaker, Consuelo Teran, another settlement client
8. **Guest Speaker:** - Consuelo Teran: Consuelo and her family moved from Columbia to the US, then moved to Canada in 2008. After living in different cities in Canada, they moved to the Cowichan Valley and here, they found a Big Heart, Big Welcome and respect of all peoples. She felt Duncan to be the best City ever, as it gave them love, understanding, courage and support. Derek thanked Consuelo for her talk and then, he introduced the Treasurer, Byron Johnston

9. **Appointment of the Auditor:** Byron Johnston introduced Rick Germann, the Auditor. Rick reported that the Society was on sound financial footing as it begins the more difficult task of relying on Federal Funding in the coming years. Byron moved that the Society appoint McKinnon Germann Granger as the auditors for the year 2012-2013 and the year coming up, 2013-2014. Seconded by Amrik. MOTION APPROVED
10. **Treasurer's Report:** Byron discussed the budget for the past 3 years and showed the changes the Society has gone through. This involved the losing of the 2 receptionist positions and the reduction of hours for several of the staff, due to fewer revenues than anticipated. Up to 24 grants were written this year and half were accepted. More changes to come in April 2014 as Provincial funding is taken over by the Federal Government.
11. **Social Enterprise Report:** Derek reported on Social Enterprises that the Society is looking at, to help the Society become more independent of Federal funding. At this time, they are looking at collaboration with the United Way on a program called 'Better at Home'. This was similar to a program that the Society was going to do on their own. Derek introduced Emma Koch, Relationship Coordinator. She then introduced Randy Noble, a volunteer tutor
12. **Guest Speaker - Randy Noble:** Has volunteered for the Society as an ESL tutor for awhile. He described tutoring his student, Amajit ... ??? and learning about her culture as she learned about his. His family became close with hers and both have become more culturally aware because of this. Randy thanked Bev Thompson, who was the Coordinator for this program
13. **Nomination Committee's Report and Election:** Angie Martell and Gus Williams reported that 4 people came forward as nominees for the Board of Directors. Each person was asked to stand and describe their history and how they could benefit the Society.
Yui Sakuma, a chartered accountant at MNP, Accountants
Dilbert Garcia, with a history of volunteerism, and degrees in Commerce and Education
Joerg Rosenthal, a previous VW foreman/trainer and freelance photographer
Jarnail Kang, a retired IWA worker and a cancer and Hospice volunteer
Amrik Prihar, previously appointed to the board this past year. Amrik had a long background in education in the Gold River School District. Presently retired
- Gus asked the membership, that 'if anyone wanted to nominate themselves or another person, they could do so now'. None were forthcoming. Gus Williams moved that all nominees be accepted to the Board of Directors. Seconded by Byron Johnston - MOTION APPROVED
Derek thanked Bill Robson for his time with the Society as he was now stepping down.
14. **Questions from the Members:** Shahla Atrchi asked about the Social Enterprise Committee. Derek mentioned that Ronnie Auton, Chair of the committee, was not in attendance at this time to answer questions and that Derek had already gone over some of the areas earlier in the meeting
Pip Woodcock, asked that a receptionist at the front desk, would make the office more welcoming than it was now. Lynn Weaver responded that board members would be asked to volunteer at that position asap. Emma Koch also asked the membership if there was anyone who wanted to volunteer at some time
15. **Prayer from Kalzang Dorje and Pema Wangchen**
16. **Byron** moved to adjourn the meeting. Amrik seconded – MOTION APPROVED 7:40pm