

55 PLUS GOAN ASSOCIATION – WEST GTA INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

Thursday, March 31, 2016

at the Cawthra Seniors' Centre, Mississauga, ON

President's Welcome

The meeting was called to order by the President, Alcino Rodrigues, at 6:25 p.m. There were one hundred and twenty seven members in attendance.

Opening Prayer

Arthur Braganza said the opening prayer and prayed for a cooperative spirit within the 55 PGA.

Confirming the appointment of the Treasurer for 2015

Members were asked to confirm the appointment of Osbert Remedios as the Treasurer for 2015. The motion was proposed by Alick Alphonso and seconded by Pio Gomes.

Acceptance of the Minutes for the AGM held on February 24, 2015

Members were asked if the minutes of the AGM held on February 24, 2015 could be accepted. There were no objections and the motion was proposed by Vivien Fernandes, seconded by Norman da Costa and carried by the General Body.

Al Mathias congratulated the members of both, the past Executive Committee as well as the Anniversary / Christmas Extravaganza Committee for a job well done.

Matters arising there from

There were none.

Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for 2015

The members were asked if the 2015 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements could be adopted. There were no objections raised and the motion was proposed by Rudy Fernandes, seconded by Yvonne Hart and carried by the General Body.

Al Mathias said that he was pleased to see that a \$400 expense had been set aside for use at the discretion of the President.

Adoption of the Budget for 2016

The following points were raised regarding the Budget for 2016.

REVENUE:

- Darryl Carvalho suggested that the Revenue for 2016 should not include the Net Surplus from Socials. He suggested that the goal for costing events should be to generate a zero balance, or a small loss or gain. The 55 PGA should not accumulate surpluses from the events. Instead we should find a way to give back to the members by lowering the fees for the upcoming events. Alcino has agreed to remove the \$1,600 that was included as Revenue in the budget. This will lower the Excess Revenue over Expenses to \$1,900.

EXPENSES:

- Al Mathias suggested that the depreciation of the two laptops should be amortized over two years. This will lower the expenses that were forecast for 2016. The proposal was agreed to and will be implemented.
- Pio Gomes asked about the annual payment for Anti-Virus. He suggested that we should buy a one-time licence instead which would be a more cost effective alternative.
- Roland Francis asked about the Liability Insurance that costs \$2,450 each year. He suggested that the new Executive Committee should investigate the benefits of joining with other organizations.
- Alban Mascarenhas suggested that the 55 PGA should set aside some money to archive all the material that is currently being stored with multiple people into one location.

It was agreed that the new Executive Committee would look into the suggestions from Pio Gomes and Roland Francis and decide how to proceed.

Alcino Rodrigues agreed to adjust the Budget for 2016.

Investment of Surplus Funds by creating a Reserve Fund

Alick Alphonso pointed out that the bank balance is 100% comprised of residual accumulated membership fees. Norman da Costa suggested that the new Executive Committee should decide whether or not to create a Reserve Fund. Alban Mascarenhas proposed that there should be no change to the way that the 55 PGA finances were currently being run. He said that if the new Executive Committee decided to create a Reserve Fund, it should be managed by them. . The members agreed to this proposal.

Submit a Tax Return

This agenda item was withdrawn from the agenda because this would depend on the outcome of the decision regarding the creation of the Reserve Fund and a Finance Committee.

Gaming Licence (50/50, Bingo and Raffles)

This was the subject of an extensive discussion. John D'Souza strongly recommended that all Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission (OLG) should be strictly followed in order to avoid incurring fines or penalties.

It was mentioned that TEGSA and the Older Adults Centre have already obtained licences from the OLG.

The new Executive Committee will investigate the requirements and make a decision on how to proceed. Al Mathias offered his assistance.

Change to the Sequence of Items on the Agenda

Alcino asked the General Body if the election of the new Executive Committee and the Auditors could be moved to after 'Any Other Business' on the agenda. This was approved by the General Body.

Recommendations for Discussion

The Executive of the existing committee had put together some recommendations for discussion at the AGM to allow the members to decide on how they would like to proceed.

1. ***Approve the Format of the 2015 Financial Statements:***

The approval to maintain the new format was unanimous.

2. ***Publish requests from Members***

Members agreed that requests for publication of requests could come from the members only for their children and parents. They also agreed that the publication of requests for prayers during an illness, obituaries and thank you notes would be sent out by the committee. Requests will be published at the discretion of the new Executive Committee.

3. ***Appoint a Finance Committee to administer the investment of Surplus Reserves***

Alban Mascarenhas objected to the formation of a Finance Committee citing possible issues with liability insurance. Norman da Costa seconded the proposal and it was approved by the General Body.

4. ***Return a Portion of the Annual Surplus to Members***

The House decided that this would fall under the discretion of the new Executive Committee pending the decision on investing the surplus funds.

5. ***Publish events organized by other Goan Associations in the GTA***

Darryl Carvalho suggested that every effort to coordinate the events with the calendars of

other clubs should be made in order to avoid overlaps where possible. Approval was unanimous.

6. *Publish cultural events by organizations benefitting the Goan community*

John D'Souza suggested that discretion should be used when publishing cultural events. Approval was unanimous.

7. *Hold social events jointly with other Goan organizations in the GTA*

It was recommended that this decision should be left up to the new Executive Committee.

The implementation of the recommendations listed above will be at the discretion of the new Executive Committee.

Comments from Members & Any Other Business

Alban Mascarenhas suggested that the Constitution should be amended to include "Not for Profit, Non-charitable" Association as stated in the Incorporation Document.

Alick Alphonso had sent a proposal stating that the 55 PGA must be prepared to comply with the Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) when it is legislated. He suggested that if the 55 PGA decides to re-register as a Not for Profit Charitable Corporation, we could apply for a Charitable Gaming License from the City of Mississauga that requires that the proceeds must be used directly for pre-approved eligible charitable programs. He suggested that we could then conduct Bingo from 50/50 collections at social events and give the entire proceeds from this activity to the Goan Charitable Organization who work to assist for the needy in our community.

In light of the earlier discussions at the AGM, both Alban and Alick agreed to withdraw their comments.

Neville Arnold addressed the General Body to categorically refute the content of Item 11 in the Annual Report that alleged abuse to confidential access to records accorded to him as a result of his portfolio on the Executive Committee.

Election of the New Executive Committee for 2016 & 2017

Alban Mascarenhas nominated Osbert Remedios for President and Violet Fernandes seconded the motion.

Osbert then proposed the following individuals as members of his Executive Committee:

Vice-President:	Norman da Costa
Treasurer:	Aggie D'Mello
General Secretary:	Stella Almeida (withdrew & replaced by Leslie de Souza)

Social Secretary: Nirmala Sequeira
Assistant Social Secretary: Ruth Remedios
Communications Director: Romeo D'Souza
Cultural Secretary: Samson Santimano
All his proposals were approved by the General Body.

Election of Auditors for 2016 & 2017

Alban Mascarenhas and Roland Francis were proposed as the auditors for 2016 and 2017. This was approved by the General Body.

Since there was no other business to discuss, Alcino adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Leslie de Souza
General Secretary
55 PGA – West GTA Inc.