55 PLUS GOAN ASSOCIATION – WEST GTA INC.
MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING
held on Thursday, April 16, 2026
at the Mississauga Seniors' Centre
1389 Cawthra Road South, Mississauga, ON

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Norman Da Costa (Vice President) who was chairing the AGM.
There were forty-five (45) members present.

1. **Opening Prayer**
   Christine Rodrigues said the opening prayer.

2. **President's Welcome**
   Cynthia Harris (President) welcomed the members and thanked them for their support and for their presence at the AGM. She thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their hard work. She said that we need to get new members to join the 55PGA who would come in with new ideas to make it the vibrant association that it once was. Cynthia informed us that she would not stay on the committee past the current term.

3. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM held on March 22, 2025**
   Members were asked if the minutes of the AGM held on March 22, 2025 could be confirmed. Since there were no objections Lydia Nazareth proposed acceptance of the minutes. It was seconded by David Nazareth and carried by the General Body.

4. **Matters Arising Therefrom**
   David Nazareth had sent Leslie de Souza (General Secretary) an e-mail to bring to her attention that according to the minutes of the 2025 AGM, the Executive Committee that was elected in 2025 was elected for a period of two years (2025 & 2026).

   Aggie D'Mello (Treasurer) thanked David for pointing out that the Executive Committee was elected for 2025 & 2026. However, Aggie explained that there was an error in Item 9 (Election of a New Executive for 2025 & 2026) of the 2025 minutes, saying that the committee elected at the AGM should have only been for one year (2025) which was the balance of (Past President) Alcino Rodrigues' two-year term. Aggie suggested that the minutes of the 2025 AGM should be amended to correct the error. The members were given a list of Past Presidents showing the two-year term

that each of them served. Lydia Nazareth said that what Aggie was saying did not matter because the term was clearly stated in the 2025 minutes which could not be changed.

Alcino Rodrigues suggested that we defer the discussion till later in the meeting because it was Item 9 on the agenda.

5. To adopt Audited Financial Statements for 2025

Members were asked if the Audited Financial Statements for 2025 could be adopted. Mercia Menezes proposed the motion. It was seconded by Wilfred de Souza and carried by the General Body.

6. Comments, if any, from Members on the Annual Report & 2025 Financial Statements

Lydia Nazareth asked about why there was a $228 loss for the Fish Curry Nite even though she said that a committee member (who she would not name) who announced at the event that this was a “Sold Out” event. Aggie D’Mello and Osbert Remedios (Vice President) explained that the objective of any event was to break even, and sometimes that resulted in a small loss or profit. Lydia suggested that the tickets were not priced correctly. She said that the committee should not have gone back to the same location where we had lost money for 3 years in a row. Lydia kept insisting that a “sold out” event cost cannot reflect a loss. She wanted to know if the committee thinks it is ok to lose money to benefit the members.
Lydia said that, while she did not have an issue with the financials because Aggie’s reporting was exceptional, she was questioning the $228 loss at a sold out event.

Alban Mascarenhas (Auditor) said that during the audit he had asked Aggie D’Mello about the small loss for the Fish Curry Nite, but claimed that he did not get an answer. Aggie said that Alban had never asked the question. Lydia Nazareth clarified that Alban was confusing the loss for the Fish Curry Nite with the Christmas Dance loss. Alban confirmed that the auditors did not have any issues when they audited and signed off on the financials.

Alcino Rodrigues said that we should not look at the financials in isolation, but rather review them as part of the whole picture. The net position for the year determines the performance of the Executive Committee. The net position for 2025 showed a small profit. He said that there is always a portion of the membership fees that will offset some of the expenses. He also said that every event could not have a surplus. Lydia asked if that

meant that every event could be run at a loss. Once again, she was told that the goal was always to “break even”.

Alban Mascarenhas said that using membership fees to offset the price of the ticket was not allowed in the Constitution without being approved at an AGM. However, he was referring to an increase to membership fees that would have to be decided at an AGM and approved by the General Body. Leslie de Souza directed him to Section 3 iii of the Constitution that covered that topic.

David Nazareth said that the meeting was getting out of hand and that people were raising their voices so it sounded like we were fighting. David said that the issue was with the “sold out” wording that was incorrect meant that the event should not have incurred a loss. On behalf of the committee, Norman Da Costa apologized for using the words “sold out”.

At this point several of the members were speaking over each other, so Romeo D’Souza (Communications Co-ordinator) had to ask them to obey the rules of the AGM. He said that their comments would not be recorded unless they spoke one at a time into the microphone in the centre.

Al Mathias said we were “splitting hairs” by continuing with the conversation. He said that the ticket prices should be kept low in order to attract our members to come to events. Al said that sometimes there needs to be a “loss leader” to entice members to come to an event even though that may result in a small loss. He pointed out that overall there was a profit for 2025. He said that when a Committee is elected, the members give it the authority to run the Association. He also said that we needed to be reasonable instead of wasting time arguing about such a small loss for an event, even though there was an overall profit for the year. Al said that if the arguing continued, people would be unwilling to come forward to form a committee.

Alcino Rodrigues said that at a time when we are having extreme difficulty in having people come forward, he suggested that the members should be “humane” in their evaluation of the committee’s performance. He said that the kind of discussion that we were having would deter people from coming in to form a new committee and prevent the association from moving forward.

Danny Solomon came forward to say that the general atmosphere at the AGM had become quite toxic and confrontational. He said there needed to be a different mindset from the current situation where some individuals were trying to outdo the others. He said that nothing would happen if this

behaviour continued. He suggested that more would be accomplished if we worked together to support the committee.

Alcino Rodrigues asked why there were 2 vice-presidents (Osbert Remedios & Norman Da Costa) on the 2025 Committee although the Constitution only allowed for one in a term. Osbert explained that each Vice President had only served for 6 months. Alcino and Lydia Nazareth said that the General Body should have objected to the decision to have two vice presidents at the 2025 AGM. However, that was not done, so the proposal was accepted at the AGM.

7. <u>Comments on any matters sent in writing to the General Secretary prior to April 10, 2026</u>

There were none.

However, the Executive Committee decided to accept an e-mail from David Nazareth that was sent to Leslie de Souza (General Secretary) on April 7, 2025 as comments sent in writing prior to April 10, 2026.

Leslie explained the reason for the words “at the discretion of the Committee”. For example, if there were 20 questions received, the committee would not be able to answer all the questions. They would have to prioritize the questions to decide which ones that they were going to deal with. She said that the committee also requires time to prepare the answers to the questions or comments. Leslie said that the same paragraph has been included in the standard template for the 2nd AGM notice to the members that had been used for many years even before she joined the committee 12 years ago. David said that he was mistaken because he had included questions on the 2025 minutes which is a separate item. He apologized and decided to withdraw his comments.

8. <u>Update on the review of the Constitution to comply with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA), the Provincial Registrar and City of Mississauga Requirements</u>

An update was requested from the committee (David Nazareth, Norman Da Costa & Rudi Rodrigues) that was elected at the 2024 AGM to conduct the review.

David explained that he had taken over the whole project two years ago, but due to his illness it had been delayed. He mentioned that Leslie de Souza had personally typed out the Constitution to give him a soft copy which would make his work easier. He said that he has made the required changes and

that he has sent the document to Norman & Rudi to review before preparing a final draft for the Executive Committee to approve.
Leslie de Souza asked if he had included the ONCA and City of Mississauga requirements in his review and David said that although the words may not be an exact match to the wording in ONCA, the requirements had been addressed.

Al Mathias also asked if the revisions were in compliance with ONCA and David confirmed that they were. David said that the document that he has prepared will show all the changes that were made.

It was agreed that any changes to the Constitution need to be sent to our members to review before it could be voted on at a General Body Meeting. Norman thanked David for all the work that he had done.

We decided to take a short break at this point in the evening.

The meeting was reconvened about 30 minutes later.

9. <u>Election of a New Executive for 2026 and 2027</u>

David & Lydia Nazareth said that according to the minutes of the 2025 AGM the current committee had been elected for 2025 and 2026. David said that Cynthia Harris did not take over for the balance of Alcino Rodrigues' term. Rather Alcino had completed his two-year term and stayed on for an extra year because no one had come forward with a new committee. Cynthia Harris was then elected for a new two-year term. David said that the Constitution clearly says that the four executive positions on the committee (President, Vice President, Treasurer and General Secretary) are elected for a two-year term, no matter how many years they had served previously. He said that the minutes could not be changed because they were correct and he refused to accept Aggie D'Mello's proposal to amend them. Accordingly, David said that the current committee members would have to stay on till the end of 2026.

David said that the only way around this was if there was a mass resignation of all the committee members. Then the next incoming committee would be elected for 2026 & 2027. Norman Da Costa told him that at the last committee meeting all the current committee members had verbally indicated that they were resigning. David asked if the President had accepted the resignations and he was told that she had not. Since that meeting Cynthia Harris confirmed that she was resigning. Leslie de Souza was the only committee member who had submitted a written resignation in January but she had agreed to stay on until after the AGM. When David asked for an effective date for the verbal resignations, Norman said that it would be after the AGM.

So the end result is that there would be no executive committee in place for 2026. That being the case, a new executive committee would be required for 2026 & 2027.

Alcino Rodrigues asked if we had an incoming committee and was told that we did not. So he said that it was incumbent on us to ask who at the AGM is willing to form the next committee. However, if no one stepped forward, it would require that the current committee stays on. Norman said that there is nothing in the Constitution that could make us do that.

David Nazareth reminded us that as part of the affiliation with the City of Mississauga, we are required to give them the names of the executive committee members.

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Norman Da Costa asked if there was anyone present at the AGM intending to form the next committee. However, no one came forward. Aggie D'Mello confirmed that he had received a message from Sylvia Chakravarty saying that she wanted to join the committee as the Vice-President in absentia because she was out of the country until May. It is possible that Sylvia may decide to form her own committee now that all four positions on the Executive Committee are vacant. Several of the members present (Rudi Rodrigues, Mercia Menezes, Joe Nunes, Wilfred de Souza, Brenda Anthony) were asked if they would be willing to form or join the next committee, but each one declined for a variety of reasons.

As the discussions became more heated, louder and aggressive, Danny Solomon once again stepped forward to say that he could see that we were not supporting each other. He said that unless we decided to work together the 55PGA would have to close down. He asked the members to let cooler heads prevail so that we could get something accomplished at the AGM.

Joe Nunes said what was happening at the AGM was not good. He said that he hoped that the meeting would reach a stage where the members would take the time to thank everyone on the Executive Committee for their good work, time and sacrifices. He also said that having a Caretaker Committee was just postponing the inevitable.

Rudi Rodrigues and Wilfred de Souza offered to work together to find people to form a new committee. They asked the current committee to stay on for up to 90 days while they were doing this. The committee members agreed. Leslie de Souza said that she would not stay on beyond the 90 days. Leslie said that she would send the job descriptions to Rudi so that he could get an idea of the duties and time commitment for each position.

Lydia Nazareth asked if the Fish Curry Nite & Whist events would still go on. She was told that they would.

10. Election of Auditors for 2026 and 2027

David & Lydia Nazareth said that the current auditors Almir D'Cunha & Alban Mascarenhas had been elected for a two year term (2025 & 2026) at the 2025 AGM.
Alban said that he was resigning as an auditor. Cynthia Harris asked him to submit his resignation in writing.
Alcino Rodrigues said that he would be willing to help if needed.
No one new was nominated, so there was no vote taken by the General Body.

11. Meeting Adjourned

The General Body agreed that the meeting should be adjourned for at least 30 days so that the discussion could continue. However, this was extended to "not more than 90 days".

The next steps are to be determined.

Al Mathias thanked the committee for their hard work.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
Lydia Nazareth proposed the adjournment and it was seconded by Al Mathias.

Minutes prepared by:
Leslie de Souza
General Secretary
55 Plus Goan Association – West GTA Inc.
May 16, 2026