

## Meeting Minutes of the ICC Board of Directors, January 21 2019

Call to order 7:28

Present: Sholeh D. (P), Soudeh G, Younes Z., Saman T., Mohsen K., Pouyan T., Bijan A., Babak T., Hooman S. (P)

1. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Younes Moves, Bijan Seconds, approved
2. Privacy and Membership Lists Request
  - a. An email was sent out on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to all members telling them of the ICC's obligation to release membership lists and allowing them to opt-in to having their names and addresses released to members who asked for them
  - b. As of the evening of January 21, 2019 we have not received any opt-in requests by email or physical mail, including from the 4 members concerned
  - c. We have informed the members who asked for the information that the information of those members who have opted-in by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January will be released to those 4 individuals by January 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - d. Bijan A. suggests that we send a reminder in mid-February and give the information of those who opted-in to the 4 individuals
    - i. In favour: Bijan A., Soudeh G., Pouyan T., Sholeh D., Younes Z., Mohsen K.
    - ii. Against: Hooman S.
3. Financials
  - a. Paper copies of financials were brought after it was requested by Hooman
4. Minutes from September – January 21, 2019
  - a. Bijan A. Moves to approve minutes, seconded by Mohsen K.
  - b. Hooman S. states two points on the minutes of January 7<sup>th</sup>:
    - i. Firstly, he states that the project he referenced in the January was clear
    - ii. Secondly, he objects to the fact that his reasoning for the vote on the membership information motion (where Mr. Shirazi stated that he wanted to release the members' information because he wanted to protect himself financially from any possible legal action) was explained in the minutes whereas nobody else's reasoning was
    - iii. Secretary states that all of the statements that were put into the minutes were recorded by audio for the purpose of minute-taking and verified when the minutes were being edited by the Secretary.
    - iv. Secretary notes that the content of the minutes regarding the reasoning for the vote is not being questioned, and states additionally that the reason Mr. Shirazi's reasoning was included was because he himself described this reasoning to the board on the record and in detail and the Secretary thought that transparency around this utterance was of interest to the members of the organization
  - c. Approval of minutes: Sholeh D., Soudeh G, Younes Z., Saman T., Mohsen K., Pouyan T., Bijan A.
  - d. Opposed: Hooman S.

5. Cultural event celebrating Middle Eastern Women's achievements
  - a. Soudeh G. states that she was approached by an event celebrating Middle Eastern Women's achievements to help the event
  - b. Soudeh G. will send the details of the event to the board to decide organization's involvement
6. Policy committee Update (Saman T.)
  - a. Consultation process to determine priority policies
    - i. Draft of online consultation form was made by Saman T.
    - ii. Board members gave their input on the form
    - iii. Motion to continue with this line, where an open-ended preliminary consultation will be conducted online to guide a more detailed survey that will be sent to members online, and then in-person consultations and lectures on important topics will be undertaken
    - iv. In favour: Soudeh G, Younes Z., Saman T., Mohsen K., Pouyan T., Bijan A., Babak T.
    - v. Opposed: Sholeh D., Hooman S.
7. Public Relations Committee Update (Mohsen K.):
  - a. Pub night: venue will be booked for \$300
    - i. In favour: Soudeh G, Younes Z., Saman T., Mohsen K., Pouyan T., Bijan A., Sholeh D., Hooman S., Babak T.
    - ii. Opposed: None
8. Culture Committee Update (Sholeh D.):
  - a. February 10<sup>th</sup> roundtable on immigration, to be confirmed
  - b. In favour: Soudeh G, Younes Z., Saman T., Mohsen K., Pouyan T., Bijan A., Sholeh D., Hooman S., Babak T.
  - c. Opposed: none
9. Membership Fees
  - a. Board agrees to raising membership fee to \$20 per year;
  - b. In favour: Soudeh G, Younes Z., Saman T., Mohsen K., Pouyan T., Bijan A., Sholeh D., Hooman S., Babak T.
  - c. Opposed: none
  - d. An email will be sent to members explaining this decision, presenting membership fee of \$10 has not been increased since the founding of the organization and does not cover the administrative obligations that the organization needs to function, to be prepared by Soudeh G. and Pouyan T.
  - e. Soudeh G. will confirm
10. ICC Website (Bijan Ahmadi)
  - a. ICC website was moved to nationbuilder platform 2015/16 under the presidency of Mr. Arsalan Kahnemuyipoor
  - b. Mr. Farhang Farid was in charge of the website of the time and promised to backup the previous website's information
  - c. Mr. Ahmadi at the time undertook the project to change the website to nationbuilder personally, taking approximately 100 hours to do
  - d. Mr. Farid failed to backup the website, meaning that the announcements etc. from the website was lost

- e. Mr. Ahmadi was able to find and replace some of the announcements etc. of the website independently
- f. Additionally, Mehran Farazmand gathered the majority of these announcements through Salam Toronto in pdf format and it is in the possession of the ICC
- g. This means that this information is archived and in the possession of the organization

11. Adjournment: 9:16 pm

## **Emergency Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Iranian Canadian Congress – March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Present:** Mohsen Khaniki, Sholeh Khalili, Pouyan Tabasinejad (S), Saman Tabasinejad, Hooman Shirazi, Soudeh Ghasemi, Bijan Ahmadi (P), Younes (P)

**Regrets:** None

Minutes by: Pouyan Tabasinejad

Call to order: 7:45 PM

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Motion to retain Legal Counsel
  - a. “The board of directors of the Iranian Canadian Congress agrees to retain Jonathan Nehmetallah and the firm Gardiner Roberts LLP to represent the Iranian Canadian Congress (ICC) in its litigation and related legal activities regarding to the claim made against the ICC by Payami et al. with respect to the information of its membership. This retaining will stay in effect until the case is resolved or until one or both of the parties decide to end the relationship.”
  - b. Introduced by Soudeh Ghasemi
  - c. Seconded Mohsen Khaniki
  - d. Unanimously approved by Board present
4. Other business
  - a. Motion by Bijan Ahmadi, seconded by Mohsen Khaniki
    - i. “The board will delegate upon Soudeh Ghasemi and Pouyan Tabasinejad to be the points of contact with legal counsel and have the authority make major decisions in regard to this case as they see fit”
    - ii. Unanimously approved by board members present
  - b. Pub night – March 28<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Consult with lawyer regarding whether these minutes should be made public.
5. Adjournment

**Emergency Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Iranian Canadian Congress – May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (by phone)**

**Present:** Mohsen Khaniki, Sholeh Khalili, Pouyan Tabasinejad (S), Saman Tabasinejad, Hooman Shirazi, Soudeh Ghasemi, Bijan Ahmadi (P), Younes (P)

**Regrets:** None

Minutes by: Pouyan Tabasinejad

Call to order: 9:08 AM

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Soudeh G – confidentiality
  - a. Ms. Ghasemi wants Mr. Shirazi to confirm that he will not share the information of the case with the applicants, as she believe that he may have done so
  - b. Mr. Shirazi denies this and states that he is of course not going to share any of the information with the applicants
4. Soudeh G – flooding update
  - a. We have received 300,000 together with Red Cross
  - b. Other efforts are ongoing, will keep board updated as they go forward
5. Motion introduced by Pouyan:
  - a. After extensive consultation with counsel for the Iranian Canadian Congress, due to the significant financial burden of the case and considering that the four applicants in the concerned legal action are not willing to accept settlement, the board of directors of the organization will be making available an up-to-date membership list to all current members in good standing beginning May 17, 2019.
  - b. Hooman S.: says we should have given the list from the beginning, and avoided costs, which is why he voted against the motion to retain counsel and fight the case
  - c. Pouyan T.: states that Mr. Shirazi voted for the motion
  - d. Hooman S: states that he withdrew his vote by email
  - e. Soudeh G.: says that considering 1) the advice we got from the Privacy Commissioner, 2) the organization's bylaws, and 3) the corporations act, we decided that, according to the information we had available at the time, we should have not given the list as it existed then. Therefore, he is in favour of this decision. Ms. Ghasemi notes that the costs of this case so far were raised exclusively for this case and not taken out of the corporation's coffers.
  - f. Vote: everyone in favour, excepting Mr. Shirazi who is against. Motion passes
6. Motion by Bijan A.

- a. In view of this case and this decision, the board of directors suspends online membership registration or renewal effective immediately so that the board can develop the correct procedure; in the meanwhile, the secretary will undertake to renew and register members.
- b. Passes unanimously

## 7. Adjournment

## Meeting Minutes of the Meeting of The ICC Board of Directors, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

1. Update on the court case and related items
  - a. Cross examinations ongoing, taking place next week
  - b. We continue to engage in extensive settlement negotiations with the applicants, and have offered them numerous possible solutions
2. ICJ Statement
  - a. B Ahmadi recuses himself from this discussion and voting on this topic since he sits on the board of the ICJ
  - b. P Tabasinejad updates board on ICJ case, where they are being taken to court for defamation in relation to calling an article Islamophobic
  - c. Motion putting out a statement supporting ICJ in this case put forward by Pouyan T, seconded by Younes Z.
  - d. Sholeh in favour
  - e. All in favour except Hooman
3. Updates on correspondences with Ali Ehsassi
  - a. P Tabasinejad reached out to Ali Ehsassi three separate occasions to talk about issues, going back to May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, then May 15<sup>th</sup>, and May 30<sup>th</sup>, no response.
4. Updates on Red Cross
  - a. Money will be transferred to international red cross on June 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Will put out a communication telling people to donate before the 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. Fundraising
  - a. Fundraising emails – only Pouyan and Sholeh have done this. Soudeh asks everyone to do it.
6. Membership renewal
  - a. Online renewal and enrollment was removed for two reasons:
  - b. 1. People need to be informed of the privacy issues and that their information may be shared in plain language and in person
  - c. 2. There were concerns that people's information is not safe if people could sign up online – e.g. someone could sign up with someone else's address and name, a 307 request could be made and that person's information could be shared without their consent.
7. Update on action plans related to the Federal election
  - a. Saman will work w Bijan and Pouyan on next round of consultations
8. Upcoming AGM
  - a. We are attempting to have the AGM within legally mandated times, but we must deal with the court case first
  - b. Bijan A proposes a motion that the board holds that we propose to hold the AGM at the first possible opportunity considering the case and legal obligations.
  - c. Seconded by H Shirazi, passed unanimously.
9. Motion to adjourn by P Tabasinejad, seconded by S Ghasemi