

ICC Meeting – September 23, 2015

Administration and Finance Committee Meeting

Attendees

1. Behrouz Amouzgar
2. Bijan Ahmadi
3. Soudeh Ghassemi
4. Arsalan Kahnemuyipour
5. Reza Ghazi
6. Shahram Namvarazad
7. Arshak Shojaei
8. Mitra Saffari
9. Farhang Farid

Agenda:

1. Introductory remarks
2. Approval of Minutes of September 1
3. Committee Reports
 - Cultural Committee (Sept. 27 event)
 - Comm. & PR Committee (Oct. 4 event, etc.)
 - Policy-making Committee
4. Medi Shams E-mail To Board
 - The publicity around Maryam Rashidi's case
 - The organization/management of Oct. 4 event
 - The petition for the Iran Nuclear Deal
5. Extended Absences of Board Members
6. Code of Conduct for ICC
7. Making ICC a safe environment for Women
8. ICC's Role and Constraints in Advocacy

1. Minutes of September 1, 2015

The minutes of September 1, 2015 were approved by the board.

2. Committee Reports

Cultural Committee

The international peace day event will be taking place this Sunday.

They require the support of the board members to invite all members who are interested to join. They require the assistance of the PR Committee in promoting this event.

PR Committee

A proposal has been made to the PR Committee by some of the members with respect to preparation and maintenance of an information hub on the ICC website for newcomers.

To start, the PR Committee will ask the volunteers who made the proposal to gather an initial set of documents to be presented to the ICC for approval.

Proshat Javid is contacting the potential affiliate organizations on behalf of the ICC.

Pantea Jafari will be moderating the federal election forum event. Two others have asked to assist with the event: Behzad Jazizadeh and Shoja Eddin Ziaian.

Economy, immigration and foreign policy will be the main topics of discussion during this event. Pantea Jafari, Shoja Eddin Ziaian, Behzad Jazizadeh, Arsalan Kahnemuyipour and Bijan Ahmadi will be reviewing the questions received from the members and will formulate the final list of questions for the debate.

All those attending are required to RSVP.

Security will be hired at cost of \$30 per hour.

We have 4 sponsors so far and there are 2 pending sponsors.

A proposal was made with respect to addition of environment as one of the topics discussed during this event. A question will be formulated which addresses the environment in the context of economy.

A proposal was made to collect written questions from the attendees.

Note: This proposal was later adopted by the organizing group and later, Behrouz Amouzgar was asked by the organizing group to help with written questions that will be submitted by audience during the federal forum.

Mr. Namvarazad and Mr. Shojaie started questioning all the various aspects of the forum. Bijan Ahmadi tried to explain for Mr. Namvarazad and Mr. Shojaie some of the reasoning behind the decisions made in previous board meetings however, They insisted on discussing and changing all decisions made in previous meetings. They were reminded that these decisions were made by the board before and we could not go back to those issues. If they wanted to have an input, they should have attended those meetings. A heated discussion ensued and at this point Behrouz Amouzgar left the meeting in objection to discussions that were outside the agenda of the meeting and were related to issues that had already been decided. He did not return until the end of the meeting.

Policy-making committee

Tabled for next meeting due to absence of Mr. Amouzgar

Extended Absence of Board Members

There was a long discussion of the absences of Mr. Shojaie and Mr. Namvarazad. Mr. Namvarazad had not come to any board meeting since mid-July and Mr. Shojaie since late July. Mr. Namvarazad had not come to any ICC events at all. Mr. Shojaie only came to the July 26 ICC gathering and no other event. Mr. Shojaie insisted that he was absent only at a few meetings and other board members had been absent to. It was explained to him that many board meetings did not reach quorum and did not take place because of their absences. They were the only members who were absent without any advance notice. After a long discussion, the following motion was introduced by Bijan Ahmadi:

Motion: With respect to attendance of board members in the BOD meetings, the board will set the following policy: 1. Recording attendance in all minutes (present, absent, regrets), 2. attendance report to be part of AGM report, and 3. meetings that do not happen because of quorum should be reported to members clearly indicating the names of absences.

Mr. Namvarazad: abstained, all others present in the meeting voted in favor.

Medi Shams E-mail To Board

- The publicity around Maryam Rashidi's case
- The organization/management of Oct. 4 event
- The petition for the Iran Nuclear Deal

Only the publicity around Maryam Rahsidi's case was discussed at some length, though no conclusion was reached. Some members felt that having the two liberal candidates at the meeting with Maryam Nazemi and the Liberal MPP was unnecessary and could be interpreted as ICC favoritism for one party. This was basically Medi Shams's point too. The explanation given by board members who organized the meeting with the MPP was that that the purpose of involving the federal liberal candidates in the meeting with the Liberal MPP was not to promote the election campaign of these two candidates in any shape or form. They mentioned that it is a common practice in similar advocacy organizations to include/engage their community influencers that are active members of a political party in advocacy work they try to do with that specific political party. They mentioned that in recent months other than this advocacy matter related to Maryam Rashidi the ICC has communicated and engaged the Iranian-Canadian federal conservative candidate in its communications with the Conservative government officials to request the Canadian government to step up its action regarding Mr. Mostafa Azizi's case. These board members who were involved in the meeting with

the Liberal MPP mentioned that they believe the right way for creating a balance and staying non-partisan in a non-profit organization that is involved in advocacy work is to ensure that they involve all political groups in different advocacy activities the organization is trying to do. They mentioned that in their opinion the alternative (which is to stay away from our community influencers, Iranian-Canadian candidates and community leaders who are part of different Canadian political parties in fear of being seen as partisan) will reduce ICC's capability in achieving its mandate of doing advocacy work for the benefit of the Iranian-Canadian community. Others argues that it is impossible to strike a balance in the timeframe of an election campaign also because different projects have different potentials, and as such it is best to avoid such engagements altogether. For example, the case of Mr Azizi does not seem to allow for the same type of opportunity. In addition, there is a chance that nothing for the NDP candidate may materialize. A long discussion ensued. Everyone agreed that there are sensitivities around the upcoming election and that we need to be very careful to make sure ICC is not wrongly seen as supporting a particular party. Arsalan Kahnemuyipour emphasized that we should focus on the future and think of ways of ensuring that we are viewed by the community as we would like to, which is completely unbiased as an organization, regardless of what the preferences of individual board members may be. Bijan Ahmadi suggested that the board comes up with appropriate rules and protocol to prevent misunderstandings and miscommunications for future meetings with government officials. The discussion was not conclusive.

All other agenda items were tabled.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.