

ICC Meeting – Oct 8, 2015

ICC Board Meeting

Attendees

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

Agenda

1. Introductory remarks – Arsalan
2. Approval of Minutes of September 23
3. Committees
 - Cultural Committee: Sept. 27 event Feedback, etc.
 - Comm. & PR Committee: Oct. 4 event Feedback, etc.
 - Policy-making Committee: Update
4. Collaborations with York Region - Reza
5. Medi Shams E-mail To Board (Continued)
 - The publicity around Maryam Rashidi's case
 - The organization/management of Oct. 4 event
 - The petition for the Iran Nuclear Deal
6. Code of Conduct for ICC – Soudeh
7. Making ICC a safe environment for Women - Soudeh
8. ICC's Role and Constraints in Advocacy - Arsalan
9. Other business
10. Adjournment

1. Minutes of September 23, 2015

The minutes of September 23, 2015 were approved by the board with the provision that any recommended modifications could be sent to Arsalan Kahnemuyipour by 10 am the following day. Everyone agreed.

Note: No suggestions were sent to Arsalan K later.

2. Committee Reports

Cultural Committee

The international peace day event was very successful.

The comments for improvement included starting the event a bit later in the day and shortening the length of the event.

The next meeting of the cultural committee will be taking place on October 25, 2015.

PR Committee

The Federal candidates' forum was a successful event. It was well organized and orderly. All the participating candidates were very happy with the event and complimented the ICC for organizing it.

Unfortunately some members made reservations for numerous people and didn't show up resulting in taking the opportunity from others who were interested to attend. A suggestion was made that for future events every person be authorized to only make reservations for herself/himself.

Policy Development Committee

The committee currently consists of two sub-committees:

1. Bylaw Revisions subcommittee headed by Shahram Tabe-Mohammadi
2. Immigration subcommittee headed by Ariana Adibrad

There was some discussion of the composition of the Bylaws Revisions subcommittee and concerns were raised in particular about the credentials and background of some members. The board members were reminded that we cannot base our decisions on unfounded allegations against individual members in our community and can only rely on official police records, etc. There was also some positive remarks about the fact that the board consists of people with a diversity of views.

Motion M-20151008-1

Moving Board Member:

Bijan Ahmadi

Motion Text:

The educational video put together by Persian Circle encouraging the participation of Iranian Canadians in the federal election to be shared and posted by the ICC.

Seconded:

Soudeh Ghasemi

Status:

In Favour:

1. Behrouz Amouzgar
2. Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Abstained:

1. Reza Ghazi
2. Mitra Saffari

Against:

1. Arshak Shojaei
2. Shahram Namvarazad

The arguments against posting it revolved around it being seen as advertising for Persian Circle and questioning this group. There was a suggestion to try to have the final logo of Persian Circle be removed. The counter-argument was that the group had made the video and it would be a copyright violation not to recognize it. Mr Shojaeie also raised an issue of conflict of interest with respect to Bijan Ahmadi and Soudeh Ghasemi being on the board of Persian Circle. (Clarification: Neither these individuals are on the board of Persian circle. Mr. Ahmadi is on the Advisory Board of Parya Trillium Foundation.)

Motion M-20151008-2

Moving Board Member:

Bijan Ahmadi

Motion Text:

Mr. Shojaei and Mr. Namvar Azad shall publicly apologize and retract their false accusations made against other ICC board members (published in Shahrvand and Iranstar) in a formal statement to be published in the next issue of the weeklies. The formal apology must be presented to the board by Monday October 12th, 2015. In case Mr. Namvar Azad and Mr. Shojaei refuse to publish such statement, the ICC president shall prepare a formal response within the next 2 weeks.

Seconded:

Behrouz Amouzgar

Status:

In Favour:

1. Soudeh Ghassemi
2. Farhang Farid
3. Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Against:

1. Mitra Saffari
2. Reza Ghazi

Mr. Namvarazad and Mr. Shojaei did not vote due to conflict of interest.

Note: A response was prepared by Arsalan Kahnemuyipour and after several revisions, it was sent to the two weeklies. 6 members were in favor of the final text, but Mitra Saffari was not in favor of sending the response to their statement. She suggested that preparing a report of the event indicating the whole procedure of the work and the concerns, constraints and lessons learned can help resolve this conflict in a peaceful and constructive manner. She was reminded that the board approved a response and that the issues raised in the statement by Mr. Namvarazad and Mr. Shojaii needed to be addressed to clarify the matter for the members of the community.

3. Collaboration with York Region

Reza Ghazi advised that there is an opportunity to collaborate with York Region to hold an educational event with respect to business opportunity in the area. They will be providing the venue and will be covering the costs associated with catering. Reza Ghazi was encouraged to look into this further and bring a more detailed proposal to the board for consideration.

4. Code of Conduct in ICC Meeting and Events

A discussion was held clarifying that similar to all other ICC events, the board meetings are also subject to the code of conduct drafted for ICC meetings and events and as such all board members shall remain respectful of all community members and refrain from making any accusations against any of the members of the community.

All other items on the agenda were tabled for future meetings. The meeting was adjourned at 10 pm.