

## **Board Meeting - January 7, 2016, NYCC (Several observers present)**

Present: Bijan Ahmadi, Soudeh Ghasemi, Arsalan Kahnemuyipour, Mitra Saffari, Reza Ghazi, Farhang Farid, Shahram Namvarazad, Arshak Shojaie (via phone)

Regrets: Behrouz Amouzgar

### **Discussion About the Meeting Agenda**

Bijan Ahmadi suggested to prioritize the discussion about the suggestions he emailed to board about ways to improve ICC board's functionality and productivity in the new year. The four titles of his suggestions are as following.

- Chair/President shall stay out of all discussions about any motion and only vote to break a tie.
- Motions to stay confidential till the voting is over. The president cannot discuss his personal opinion outside the board. Other board members can do that as long as they express that it is their personal opinion.
- Board meeting rules to be followed and enforced.
- Workload has to be distributed among all board members.
- The board meeting agenda shall be proposed as a motion in the beginning of the meeting.

The board agreed to move up the discussion about these suggestions before reviewing the electronic motions. Meanwhile, this motion did not get discussed as we ran out of time.

### **Motion: Creating the ICC Forum on Facebook**

Bijan Ahmadi proposed to create an official Facebook group that acts as an online forum for icc members and followers to discuss matters related to the Iranian Canadian community. PR committee will administer and supervise the group same as all other communication channels. The rules of the group will be set based on the code of conduct prepared and passed by the ICC board. Arshak Shojaee asked to be an admin on the Facebook group and everyone accepted.

All voted in favor.

### **Culture Committee**

Mitra is working on couple of events for different cultural occasions. Mitra wants to know when the ICC AGM will be to be able to arrange the upcoming events.

### **ICC open forum**

January 24, 2016 will the first ICC discussions forum event. Mitra confirmed that the room is already booked. This event is to be organized by Arshak, Mitra and Soudeh.

### **By-Law Revision Process**

**Motion:** Soudeh Ghasemi proposed that the board meets with the BRS. Arsalan seconded.

All voted in favor.

**Motion:** Bijan Ahmadi proposed that Soudeh Ghasemi or any other board member to act as a board liaison and joins the BRS with the right to participate in their debates and vote. Bijan believes that there is a disconnect between the board and the BRS. He said that presence of a board member in the BRS

meetings as an active member can provide the subcommittee with guidance and direction and also provides updates needed to the board regarding their progress. Those who were against the motion also felt the need for more communication with BRS. Meanwhile, they felt that adding a member with voting rights at this point, imposed by the board, may send the wrong message. They were in favour of the presence of Soudeh (or other board members) as observers to communicate the issues from BRS to the board.

Soudeh seconded the motion. Bijan Ahmadi, Shahram Namvarazad, Arshak Shojaee voted in favor.

Reza Ghazi and Farhang Farid abstained.

Mitra Saffari and Arsalan opposed.

Motion did not pass as it did not obtain the minimum 5 positive votes.

#### **Update from Reza Ghazi re insurance policy:**

**Motion: Reza Ghazi proposed the ICC to purchase liability insurance policy from AON.**

Arsalan, Soudeh, Reza, Bijan, Farhang voted in favor. Behrouz voted in favor of this motion before as well.

Shahram NamvarAzad, Mitra Saffari, Arshak Shojaee voted against this motion.

Those who voted against questioned the need for liability insurance for board members and asked whether other community organizations have such insurance. Those who voted in favour insisted that having liability insurance is a norm for non-profit organizations in Canada.

**Motion:** Arsalan proposed that Farhang, Reza, Soudeh, Behrouz, Shahram NamvarAzad to form a team to prepare for the election and AGM.

All voted in favor.

**Motion:** advocacy for Iran-Canada relations.

Arsalan proposed the following motion and sent it via email before the meeting:

Given the difficulties created for Iranian Canadians and their family members, the Iranian Canadian Congress should take any necessary measures to urge the Canadian government to establish consular services for Iranian Canadians in Canada as well as visa services for their family members living in Iran. The ICC should also urge the Canadian government to demand the release of Saeed Malekpour and Mostafa Azizi, two Iranians with connections to Canada, in any diplomatic negotiations with the Iranian government at any level.

Arsalan argued that in order for a community organization like ICC to be able to represent a diverse membership, when it comes to issues with strong differences of opinion, it should try to find a compromise position which would not increase tensions in the community. He argued that the need for consular services is something that the whole community can agree on.

During the discussion it was clarified that the ICC will only urge the government to provide access to consular services to Iranian Canadians. It was confirmed that based on the proposed motion the ICC will not define the solution for the government and leaves it up to the government to decide on the solution whether they want to open an interest section or re-open the embassy or open a consulate. While different sectors of the Iranian society might prefer one or the other of these options, all agree on the need for consular services.

Vote: All eight board members present voted in favor of the motion.