

DATE: Sunday, April 10, 2021

TIME: 03:00 PM

LOCATION: Karori Community Centre



WELLINGTON MAHARASHTRIAN ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED (WMAI)

AGM 2021-22 MEETING MINUTES

MEETING CHAIR: Dayanand Deshpande (Atul Deshpande)

MINUTE TAKER: Mandar Kulkarni

ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Abhishek Joshi	Megha Barpande	Madhurika Kulkarni	
Anurag Nanote	Raju Zodgekar	Omkar Kulkarni	
Dayanand Deshpande	Sangeeta Deshpande	Prakash Navalkar	
Deepa Mhatre	Shekhar Barpande	Pramila Navalkar	
Deepak Mhatre	Sayali Narawade	Jaya Bidari	
Deepti Joshi	Smita Kulkarni Joshi	Ila Kulkarni	
Lakhan Deshpande	Sugandha Bhonsule	Smita Shangarpawar	
Mahesh Joshi	Sushama Kulkarni	Sachin Shangarpawar	
Makrand Velhal	Sushant Thatte	Minoti Kirtikar	
Mangal Zodgekar	Sunil Ubale	Jay Deshpande	

Proxies

	Name	Proxy given to
1	Varsha Vadnerkar	Mandar Kulkarni
2	Juilee Bhandekar	Sushant Thatte
3	Rohit Nanekar	Sushant Thatte

4	Eknath Bhandekar	Sushant Thatte
5	Vivek Paranjape	Dayanand Deshpande
6	Aparna Paranjape	Dayanand Deshpande
7	Prachi Deshpande	Dayanand Deshpande
8	Neeta Gadgil	Smita Shangarpawar
9	Girija Deshpande	Lakhan Deshpande
10	Ashwini Babbar	Lakhan Deshpande
11	Yatin Kharkar	Mandar Kulkarni
12	Vaishali Kharkar	Mandar Kulkarni
13	Arvind Zodgekar	Raju Zodgekar
14	Shalini Zodgekar	Raju Zodgekar
15	Ganesh Narawade	Sayali Narawade
16	Nilesh Gosavi	Deepak Mhatre
17	Jyoti Gosavi	Deepa Mhatre
18	Anil Patekar	Anurag Nanote
19	Simantini Patekar	Anurag Nanote
20	Pramod Deshpande	Dayanand Deshpande
21	Radha Wagle	Dayanand Deshpande
22	Mridula Velhal	Makarand Velhal
23	Rekha Khasnis	Mandar Kulkarni
24	Shubhangi Mishra	Dayanand Deshpande
25	Manojchandra Mishra	Dayanand Deshpande
26	Swapnil Pabale	Dayanand Deshpande
27	Swati Pabale	Dayanand Deshpande

MINUTES

DISCUSSION

WMAI Secretary Mandar Kulkarni opened the AGM meeting with Introduction to the WMAI and Health and safety details.

1. President's Report

- President Dayanand (Atul) Deshpande presented President's Report.

- WMAI's achievements during the last year of WMAI term

- WMAI has transformed from just a Marathi movie showing organization to a bigger and better one.
- Securing Monterey cinema is the highlight of this year
- COVID forced the Marathi Film industry to a grinding halt
- WMAI wanted to keep the community together and worked hard on that
- In addition to showing movies, WMAI committee has organized various community events like
 - International Yoga Day
 - Independence Day
 - Steps challenge
- Good relationships were established with
 - Our sponsors – Comprende , Phil Mac – real Estate Agent, Our own Marathi sponsors
 - Indian High Commission Wellington
 - Auckland Maharashtrian Association
 - Melbourne Marathi Mandal
 - Brisbane Marathi Mandal
 - Zee TV representative in Australia
- I wish to remind us all the goals and objectives of WMAI
 - WMAI is NOT a religious organisation
 - We have formed WMAI to promote Marathi culture in Wellington

- We DO NOT want to cultivate “hate” culture at any cost
- So please refrain from posting derogatory messages on our
whatsapp group
- If any committee member requests to remove any of your
message, please do so
- You are free to express your opinion to anybody, but PLEASE.. Do
not use WMAI platform for that.

o WMAI Team Retrospective

- The current committee consists of
 - Dayanand (Atul) Deshpande – President
 - Mandar Kulkarni – Secretary
 - Abhishek Joshi – Treasurer
 - Varsha Vadnerkar – Member
 - Sushant Thatte – Member
 - Smita Mahesh Joshi – Member
 - Girija Mulay – Member
- During the last year, everybody in this team has developed
excellent community leadership capabilities
- Unfortunately, all meetings were on zoom due to Covid

- All decisions were well conversed, debated, challenged and agreed with majority
- Equal opportunity was offered and grabbed - most of the times
- Due to some personal circumstances, Girija Deshpande and Sushant Thatte have decided to discontinue as committee members for the next year
- We invited Makrand Velhal to be a committee member of WMAI
- We need to accept Girija's and Sushant's resignation
- We thank Girija and Sushant for their valuable contribution to WMAI
- The AGM will vote of Makrand's position on WMAI committee
- WMAI needs another member to be part of the committee

o What is community Leadership

- Lead by example
- Care for every team member
- Discipline – understand responsibilities, rights and privileges
- Delegate, respect and Improve
- Open Communication
- Challenge – but - accept group decisions
- Accept tasks and complete them

- o What can WMAI do in the next year
 - Always think about opportunities to get the community together (every 2 months)
 - Continuously develop the established relationships
 - Always seek opportunities for additional supporters for Funding
 - Always think about opportunities to get the community together (every 2 -3 -4 months?)
 - In the pandemic like scenario, organise events like Marathi steps challenge
 - Improve relationship with Ministry of Culture and Heritage (Manatu Taonga)
 - Run Campaigns to increase the memberships (Currently 93)
 - Think about a slight increase in membership fees
 - Plan and estimate programs realistically. Losing money for every program is not sustainable.

- And Keep getting new Marathi Movies.....

- o What we do (did) regularly

- Keep regular contacts with the Indian High Commission. Publish their important updates on Whatapp groups
- Engage actively with various whatsapp groups
- Maintain our Facebook page
- Maintain our website – www.wmai.site ; process photos and videos
- Maintain the current members list
- File IRD tax returns and companies office returns on time
- Create pre movie WMAI report (Thanks to Jay)
- Check the bank account regularly.
- Effective communication of the program details, prices and also follow up to attract more people. Always keep the fees \$5 less for WMAI members than non members

- o Possible future initiatives for WMAI committee to consider

- Think about inviting Arya Ambekar to Wellington, Auckland, Melbourne and Brisbane - we are still working on it
- Consider hosting all of New Zealand Maharashtrian get together in Wellington.

- Prepare for ANZ Marathi get together in Melbourne
- Think about more innovative ideas to keep the community together.
- Continue to introduce our own people doing extraordinary work using our website
- Promote and provide platform for our own performing and non performing artists
- Due to Covid and work from home, some of us are getting lazy. Let us plan something to keep us active - individually and as a team
- Australia - New Zealand Marathi Sammelan
 - व्हिक्टोरिया राज्यात, मेलबोर्न शहरात २०२२ च्या २३, २४ आणि २५ सप्टेंबर रोजी करण्याचे आयोजिते आहे.
- Acknowledging new Sponsors
 - Along with Comprende. We have secured 2 more sponsors for WMAI
 - Last Minute Production Melbourne, Australia \$300
 - Pritesh Raniga Forum Films Limited New Zealand \$300
 - And Comprende New Zealand \$500

2. Secretary's Report

- Secretary Mandar Kulkarni presented Secretary's report

- o The president, Dayanand (Atul) Deshpande has taken pro-active initiatives, shown leadership and provided guidance. Thank you Atul.
- o Treasurer Abhishek Joshi managed the financials of the events including tickets collections and payments. Thank you Abhishek.
- o All other committee members actively participated in the decision making
 - Varsha Vadnerkar
 - Smita Joshi
 - Sushant Thatte
 - Girija Deshpande

- o The current committee has completed year one of the term
- o Total WMAI membership count during the year was 95
- o Communication with members and non-members was mostly in WhatsApp group
 - 1. WMAI Members Group
 - 2. WMAI - एकमेका साहय करू Group
- o COVID – Uncertainty for program planning

- o WMAI Committee has got its own WhatsApp group and it's the main channel for discussions
- o All decisions are made with mutual understanding within the committee
- o Committee meeting minutes were captured, shared and stored on WMAI Google drive
- o Effective use of online meetings

- o Effective use of Google Forms to register event interests
- o Presentations during the events for information sharing
- o Communication is key.
 - Google Forms to register event interests
 - Needs Google/gmail account
 - Configure your mobile phone to this Google account
- o Event planning challenges other than movies
 - Request to all, please RSVP especially for AGM.
 - Due to busy social life, many cannot make it on a Saturday evening that is best suited for following reasons
 - Sunday morning's halls are unavailable due to school halls hosting regular classes
 - Sunday evenings is family time

3. Treasurer's Report

- WMAI Treasurer Abhishek Joshi presented Treasurer's Report
 - o Despite 2021-2022 continue to being a challenging year in the wake of Covid19 pandemic, WMAI did manage to host 3 events and 4 movie screenings during the year with great success. Thanks to the support of the community.
 - o WMAI has consistently maintained healthy reserves enabling to spend more on key elements of event planning like selection of right venues, providing good catering, providing quality sound systems etc to be able to host successful events.

- o WMAI also facilitated Monetary Covid support to India from our community to the appropriate authority in India (PM CARES fund)
- o This year we had 26 new people join the WMAI member's club showing growing support to WMAI in turn helping WMAI to organise more such events
- o Maintain regular account keeping
- o Maintain and control payment details per event
- o File IRD and Companies office returns on a regular basis
- o Provide regular monetary benefits to members per even

Account Statement 2020-21

Collection			Expenses	
	No.	Amount		No.
Membership Renewal	46	\$506.00	Ashadi Ekadashi Programme	
New Members	13	\$273.00	Kojagiri Programme	
New Members (Registered during Kojagiri Event and were offered \$5 discount on yearly membership fees)	6	\$96.00	International Women's Day Programme	
Membership Renewal (Renewed during Kojagiri Event and were offered \$5 discount on yearly membership fees)	2	\$12.00	WMAI website hosting yearly plan	
Ashadi Ekadashi Programme		\$245.00	2019 - 2020 AGM expenses	
Kojagiri Programme		\$890.00	Others (Interest, Tax)	
International Women's Day Programme		\$1540.00		
Others (Interest, Tax)		\$1.88		
	Total	\$3563.88		Total

Account Balance	
	Amount
Opening Balance	\$2516.19
Collection	\$3563.88
Expenses	-\$3834.96
Account Balance	\$2245.11

Account Statement 2021-22

Collection

	No.	Amount
Membership Renewal	67	\$737.00
New Members	26	\$546.00
15 Aug Programme		\$1945.00
Jhimma Movie		\$675.00
Pandu Movie		\$748.00
Panghrun Movie		\$765.00
Pawankhind Movie		\$1113.00
Phil Mac (Raywhite) Sponsorship		\$250.00
Comprende Sponsorship		\$500.00
WMAI Steps Challenge (Comprende Sponsorship)		\$200.00
Yoga Day (HCl Sponsorship)		\$350.00
Others (Interest ,Tax)		\$3.29
Total		\$7832.29

Expenses

	No.	Amount
AGM (20 -21) AGM Expenses		
15 Aug Programme		
International Yoga Day Programme		
Jhimma Movie		
Pandu Movie		
Panghrun Movie		
Pawankhind Movie		
WMAI website hosting yearly plan		
WMAI Steps Challenge		
WMAI Covid Support Bank Charges		
Others (Interest, Tax)		
Total		

Account Balance

	Amount
Opening Balance	\$2245.11
Collection	\$7832.29
Expenses	-\$5844.51
Account Balance	\$4232.89



Decisions from the Discussion forum

4. Membership fees review

All attendees agreed to the increase of membership fees from \$11 to \$15. The rationale behind the increase is

- increased inflation
- build surplus for future that could be used for
 - non movie events
 - buy mike/sound equipment (infrastructure costs)
 - organising special events like sponsoring of Indian/Maharashtrian celebrities

5. Elect new committee members for replacing existing resigning members

Due to some personal circumstances, Girija Deshpande and Sushant Thatte have decided to discontinue as committee members for the next year.

Makarand Velhal was invited earlier this year to help the existing committee as Varsha Vadnekar is also away overseas in India. He has already helped the committee to carry out its activities during the last two movie events and has been ratified as a replacement for Girija. All attendees accepted Makarand Velhal as committee member.

This still left one vacant position within the committee.

All attendees agreed to amend the existing constitution of how to elect new members as below:

‘Existing committee can appoint / co-opt new members in the event when an existing member resigns for the remainder of the term’.

Accordingly, all attendees agreed to accept self nominees Sayali Narawade and Madhurika Kulkarni as new committee members.

4. Review Constitution Rules

It has been a while since the constitution rules have been reviewed. Committee to review the constitution rules and identify any amendments if required.

WMAI AGM meeting concluded at 5.00pm.

