



Iowa Nepalese Association

Monthly Meeting
March, 2014

Date: 03-29-2014

Location: West Des Moines Public Library

Attendees:

Sanjay Ghimire
Namrata Pradhan
Kapil Limbu
Sanjay Shrestha
Ashok Tulachan
Nabin Kandel
Rajendra Sedhain
Buddhi Lamsal
Amit Ranjan
Surendra Bajracharya

Agenda

1. INA Update
2. Future Plans
3. Q&A

Discussion:

Today, we mainly discussed on the conclusion points from Open Forum and comments are recorded as “Meeting notes” heading under each topic.

Suggestions from the Committee.

1. Relation between two major groups (Des Moines Nepalese Community and INA).

- a. Separate INA and DSM community fund. The DSM community fund before Nov

2012 (before registration of INA) should be returned. The fate of DSM community fund to be discussed later after the Open Forum. Other resources like stove, fridge, utensils, speakers should continue to be under DSM community jurisdiction.

Meeting Notes:

1. All the existing community resources like utensils, stoves, fridges etc belongs to DSM community
2. Someone should come forward and pick the items from Sanjay Ghimire's place and then should take the responsibility to maintain those resources.
3. INA Board members think that it's good idea not to handle the community resources anymore and hand them over to a responsible community member.
4. INA Board members agreed to return the DSM community fund before Nov 2012 (before registration of INA) to DSM community.
5. Kapil will consult with tax expert regarding the feasibility of transfer of fund (as a bulk amount) from INA account. Also if needed, we would document the process too.
6. Kapil will finalize the final amount to be transferred.

2. Limit the fundraising done by INA within a cap. Only raise fund whenever it is necessary.

- a. If funds are raised for some events (party, picnics, other events etc.) the goal should be to expend it in that event.
- b. No fund should be raised without pre-approval of the INA Board.

Meeting Note:

Without the pre approval of INA board and specific cause, INA will not raise any fund.

3. Member fee should be revised.

- a. General membership
 - i. \$5 for individual or above 18 yrs.
 - ii. \$10 for family
- b. Lifetime membership
 - i. \$50 for family.
 - ii. \$30 for individual.
- c. Refund remaining membership after new deduction.

Meeting Notes:

Lifetime membership revised - this cost could change in future.

Family - \$100

Individual - \$50

Kapil would handle the refund to the existing members.

4. Election related problems were discussed.

- a. Election process should be more regulated.
- b. It must be re-evaluated by the board and the new policy published to community before April 2014. Final version after incorporating community feedback should be out by end of April 2014.
- c. Some of the recommendations are:
 - i. The entire process should be more transparent to all. During last election, candidates/nominees were undisclosed until the deadline for filing nomination was over. It was considered one of the major flaws of the process.
 - ii. Candidate name should be made public as soon as he/she registers for election.
 - iii. If there are not enough nominations filed for board election, there should be option for re-filing nomination with extended deadline.

Meeting Note:

INA will amend the ELECTION ARTICLE based on open forum.

5. Scope related problems/issues were discussed.

- a. INA should operate within the scopes defined by its By-Law
- b. It's initial area of responsibility should be towards greater Des Moines Area. (Looked biased)
- c. Only Dasain and Asian Festival should be under INA mandate; all other local events should be conducted under Des Moines Community.

Meeting Notes:

Stmnt c need to be restated as:

Dashain and Asian festival including state level events will be hosted by INA. All other local events are primarily conducted by respective community.

6. Email/Communication related problems were discussed.

- a. Everyone agreed on starting a new email group.
- b. Emails should be sent with authentic signature/email address or on behalf of executive board. INA emails should not be sent out using individual email address or signature.
- c. Proper notification regarding board meetings and their minutes must be sent to all members.
- d. At least 2 person needs to have email admin rights.
- e. A common email address for the current board members should be established.

7. The discussions were done regarding the leadership concerns.

- a. Professional approach by board members should not be taken personally. If anyone is opposing the idea/topic it should be taken professionally not personally.
- b. Constructive feedback should be taken positively.
- c. INA should be run as organization and not as an individual. The actions/activities of INA must be team approach.
- d. No event or decision should be made public without prior approval of board.

8. Addressing any problem in a community to concerned authority;

- a. Community members are encouraged to use Suggestion Forum.
- b. Any concerns/grievances related to INA should be directly emailed to all the Board members.
- c. Community members should ask for the email/letter that shows board's approval should he/she have any questions or doubt.

9. Event Management related problems were discussed.

- a. Budget for any INA event must be pre-approved by the board.
- b. There should be well-defined relation between sub-committee formed for conducting any INA event and the executive board.
- c. Any local events needing INA resource should submit a proposal prior to the event and get INA's pre-approval.
- d. Income/expense report of any INA event should be made public at the earliest.

Meeting Notes:

The event management team should communicate with INA board through email (eg. Share the minute with INA)

Or

They can send the email to the general secretary and he/she will share with the INA board.

Prepared by:

Surendra Bajracharya
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