

Minutes from CUAA extended Committee Meeting at CUAA Picnic

Date: Saturday, September 10, 2011

Place: Rock Creek Park, Needwood Road, Rockville, MD

Attendance: Approximately 25 members attended this event.

CUAA President Bidhan Bandyopadhyay provided an update on the CUAA administrative issues including the official name change to CUAA. He addressed the concern of some CUAA staff regarding management of CUAA funds and transparency. Bidhan said that he had to take care of the CUAA accounts because the existing treasurer, Kashinath Ghosh was not been able to make time. He sends all the accounts Cc'd to other committee members from time to time. He also informed that Rajat Biswas had expressed his concern about of accountability of CUAA accounts and he wanted to know the bank statements. Bidhan said that he was happy to go over the accounts with him to know the details. Despite several calls for a committee meeting Rajat failed to make time to come to the meeting. Bidhan said he would be happy to go over the accounts with any CUAA member who wanted to know the details. He also informed that after he becomes president his name was added to the bank account along with the existing account holder Dilip Som and Sruti Chatteraj (from the past committee). Previously Rajat Biswas, have suggested that for the sake of accountability, more than one person should handle the accounts. However name of Kashinath Ghosh as treasurer was not added due to his difficulty in making time to come to the bank. Because these are internal administrative matters, Bidhan felt that it would have been appropriate for Committee members to discuss these matters internally rather than in public during CUAA meeting at Banga Sanmelan in Baltimore in July 2011. Rajat also contacted several committee members individually and other alumni and expressed his concern. However he failed to get the committee meeting as secretary. Bidhan said last Annual meeting's minutes still pending because he did not act as secretary.

President expresses his concern regarding lack of functionality of the CUAA committee since secretary and treasurer are not getting time to do their appropriate job as mentioned earlier. Present members in this meeting therefore felt that there should be a change in Secretary and Treasurer to make the committee functional for upcoming events like annual meeting.

Change of Office bearers:

5 out of 7 CUAA Committee members were present at the picnic (Bidhan, Rita, Keya, Pampa, Kashinath). The following selections were unanimous.

Designation	Current Office bearer	New Office bearer
Treasurer	Kashinath Ghosh	Pampa Mondal
Secretary	Rajat Subhra Biswas	Rita Mallick

All the committee members also expressed that they would like to work in a friendly environment since this is a voluntary effort and everyone has their job. Present members in this meeting therefore felt to let Rajat Biswas know about to end his tenure from CUAAs committee.

CUAA Constitution:

Bidhan indicated that the CUAAs Constitution (Bylaws) were created several years back by the founders and may need updating. He proposed Tarak Bhar to get a proposal at the annual meeting since he was involved in making those rules. All the members supported this proposal.

Discussions regarding CUAAs Annual Social 2011:

Social Date, Time and Venue: All voted that the Annual Social be held on Saturday, November 12 from 6:00 to 10:00 PM at Potomac Community Center (PCC).

- Action Item: - the PCC must be booked right away to ensure availability.

Food and Cultural Entertainment:

Tarak Bhar and others recommended that specific Committees be set up to work out the logistics for food and cultural programs. There was a brainstorming session and various ideas were discussed, as highlighted below:

Food

- Bidhan indicated that in 2010, CUAAs saved a lot of money (compared to previous years) by having community-cooked meal, as opposed to catered meal – the total cost was only \$375 and the food was excellent. Everyone agreed that it might be simpler to do as much community cooking as possible.
- Because the price of goat meat has escalated, people agreed to have fish and chicken (especially for the children) as the main non-vegetarian items. [Some wondered if not having goat meat might reduce the number of attendees]. Shikha Bhar informed that there is a caterer who can make excellent fish dish but charges \$1 per fish served. Others calculated that this would mean \$100 for 100 pieces of fish, which was quite reasonable and would save a lot of time and hassle to prepare fish. This idea is under consideration.
- The following names were proposed for the Food Committee – Kashinath Ghosh, Jaba Ghosh, Rita Mallick, Lina Bandyopadhyay and Keya Sarkar.
- No decision was made as to when dinner would be served but several people mentioned that it is inappropriate to line up for meals when a cultural program is going on.

Cultural Programs

- Attendees agreed that
 - a Master of Ceremonies (MC) must be selected
 - the cultural program should have variety (mixture of Rabindra sangeet, classical and contemporary /”adhunik” music, stand-up comedy, children’s program, dance, etc.) and no single program should be too long (preferred time limit 20-25

- min per performance); in order to economize time, attention needs to be paid to having microphones in order and minimizing time to adjust equipments/instruments between performances
- No paid performers would be used – there are plenty of local talents to organize a good cultural program without paid artists.
 - Bidhan reminded attendees about an opening song (Udbodhani sangeet) that was suggested by Sankar Ghosh at the 2010 social and unanimously accepted by the CUAA members; Sikha Bhar and Pampa Mondal have been requested that gather some singers to practice this piece.
 - Following names were proposed for Cultural Program Committee –Pampa Mondal, Bidhan Bandopadhyay, Tapati Das, Shikha Bhar, Pramita Chatterjee.
 - Following performers/performances were suggested and attendees were asked to check with the people – Sarbori (classical music), Radha Datta and Ananya Acharya (dance).