

ISANS AGM
Minutes of Meeting
June 19, 2023
3:00 to 4:30 pm

Present: Lilani Kumaranayake, Sonja Erman, Cecil Snow, Rosalind Penfound, Jeannie Chow, Amy Parker, Rick Power, Byron Rafuse, Tabinda Sheikh, Carmelle d'Entremont, Chris Xiao, Abdallah Yousri, Jennifer Watts

Regrets: Daniel Holland, Leo Artalejo, Elizabeth Eustaquio (she joined the non-business portion of AGM)

Minute Taker: Nabiha Atallah

1. WELCOME

Lilani Kumaranayake, as Chair, welcomed everyone to the AGM on behalf of the Board of ISANS. Quorum was confirmed and the meeting was called to order. Lilani explained the procedures and eligibility for voting.

2. OPENING REMARKS

The Minister of Immigration for the Province of Nova Scotia, Hon. Jill Balser gave video remarks on the importance of immigration to our province and ISANS' contribution to settlement and integration of immigrants in our communities.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM JUNE 20, 2022

A minor edit of Rick Power's absence from the 2022 AGM – minutes will be revised.

UPON MOTION, duly made by Chris Xiao and seconded by Amy Parker, it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes of AGM June 20, 2022 be approved.

4. PRESENTATION OF ISANS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2022-23 FISCAL YEAR AND MOTION TO APPOINT AUDITOR FOR 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR

Cecil Snow, as Treasurer, presented the Financial Statements for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

The Chair requested a motion to re-appoint Grant Thornton as ISANS Auditors for 2023-2024 fiscal year.

UPON MOTION, duly made by Cecil Snow and seconded by Rick Power, it was unanimously resolved that Grant Thornton be re-appointed as ISANS Auditors for 2023-2024 fiscal year.

5. MOTION TO ELECT DIRECTORS OF ISANS

Sonja Erman, Governance Committee chair, presented the nominations for ISANS Directors for 2023-2024. They are as follows:

- Jeannie Chow
- Carmelle d'Entremont
- Sonja Erman
- Lilani Kumaranayake
- Stefan Leslie
- Agnes Lomoro
- Amy Parker
- Rosalind Penfound
- Rick Power
- Byron Rafuse
- Tabinda Sheikh
- Cecil Snow
- Jennifer Watts
- Chris Xiao
- Tashi Yangtso
- Abdallah Yousri

UPON MOTION, duly made by Sonja Erman and seconded by Carmelle d'Entremont, it was unanimously resolved that the nominations for ISANS Directors for 2023-2024 be approved.

6. MOTION TO ELECT OFFICERS OF ISANS

Sonja Erman presented the nominations for the Officers of ISANS Board of Directors as follows:

- Chair – Lilani Kumaranayake
- Vice Chair – Rick Power
- Secretary – Chris Xiao
- Treasurer – Cecil Snow
- Past Chair – Rosalind Penfound

UPON MOTION, duly made by Sonja Erman and seconded by Abdallah Yousri, it was unanimously resolved that the nominations for Officers of ISANS for 2023-2024 be approved.

7. CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS PORTION OF AGM

UPON MOTION, duly made by Byron Rafuse and seconded by Jeannie Chow, it was unanimously resolved that the ISANS 2023 AGM be concluded.

The Chair welcomed new members to the Board:

- Stefan Leslie
- Agnes Lomoro
- Tashi Yangtso

The Chair thanked outgoing members of the Board:

- Leo Artalejo
- Elizabeth Eustaquio

- Daniel Holland
- Anna Marenick

The chair thanked and presented an award to Chris Daly who has made a significant contribution as a volunteer with the Audit and Finance Committee on risk management.

This concluded the business portion of the 2023 AGM.

The program content of the AGM included the following:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

The CEO presented the Chief Executive Officer's report with a presentation highlighting the past year's accomplishments. Jennifer thanked the board, staff, funding partners, volunteers and all those involved in supporting ISANS. The theme for this year's report was Pathways to Community and highlighted the exceptional work that ISANS has done in our work with immigrants and partners to support settlement, integration and retention of immigrants in our province.

A video of Gutu Adimsau Waqo, a graduate of ISANS Youth Employability Project, was played at the event. The video highlighted how our program helped him find a job he was passionate about and start him on a pathway to become a Red Seal Mechanic in Nova Scotia. The event also played another video which featured how ISANS's Intercultural Workplace program had helped Michael Campbell, Manager of Custodial Services at Dalhousie University to increase the diversity of his workforce.

PRESENTATION OF ISANS' AWARD

Julie-Ann Vincent, Chief Client Services Officer, explained the purpose of the ISANS Award. The recipient of the 2023 ISANS Award was the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth. Jennifer Watts, as nominator, thanked YMCA for working together with our organization for many years to serve newcomers in Canada and recognized the great efforts of YMCA in providing a broad array of settlement programs. She specially recognized the YMCA for their provincial leadership in responding to the humanitarian crisis arising from the war in Ukraine in a such a significant way. Lilani and Jennifer presented the award to Lorrie Turnbull, Chief Development Officer, YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth.

CLOSING REMARKS

Jennifer thanked everyone for coming, and particularly thanked staff and volunteers of ISANS for their dedication and commitment to the organization.

This concluded the 2023 AGM.