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Minutes of Meeting

Annual General Meeting 2017

Sikh Association of Western Australia

Held: Saturday, 30th September 2017
Langar hall

Note: Please refer AGM Agenda for Attachments 1 to 6

At 9:30AM the Secretary Mahesh Inder Singh made an announcement that only 54 members were registered at that time and accordingly, the quorum was not present. The meeting was adjourned to reconvened after 15 minutes. At 9:45AM Giani Jaswinder Singh performed Ardaas following which the Secretary informed the membership that he would be preparing the summary minutes only. Accordingly, he would record the decisions and any important information that directly relates to the outcome of a motion. If any member wished to record his/her statement, they must advise the secretary, accordingly.

1 Meeting Called to Order (Official opening, attendance and apologies)

The meeting was opened by the President Gurdarshan Singh at 9:55AM. The President welcomed the Sangat and read out the attendance at the meeting.

Attendance as at 9:55AM was as follows:

Life Members	74
Ordinary Members	17

2 President's Report (**Attachment 1**)

President opened the meeting and presented his report and provided brief progress report of the term of the EXCO. He referred to his written report and emphasized the following points:

- Cooperation and dedication of all the EXCO members, SAWA Trustees and Sangat.
- Support of the associated Clubs and Groups to achieve magnificent goals throughout the year.
- Developments of SAWA Punjabi School.
- Uplifting community profile.

3 Confirmation of the minutes of the last preceding AGM and any other GMs held since then.

3.1 AGM held on 19 September 2016 (Attachment 2)

Resolution:
That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 September 2016 presented at **Attachment 2** be adopted as true record of the proceedings.

Moved: Amrit Pal Singh
Seconded: Daljit Singh Dhillon
Carried unanimously

4 Presentation and acceptance of the Association's financial statements for the financial year ending 30 June 2017 (**Attachment 3**)

Resolution:

That the Association's financial statements for the financial year ending 30 June 2017, presented at **Attachment 3** be accepted.

Proposer: Hardial Kaur Dhillon
Secunder: Satinder Singh Samra

Carried unanimously

5 Presentation and acceptance of the auditors' report (**Attachment 3**)

Resolution:

That the Auditors report presented at **Attachment 3** be accepted.

Proposer: Harbhajan Singh Dhaliwal
Secunder: Amarjit Singh Amar

6 Deliberation on Motions

6.2 Ordinary Motions proposed by EXCO

6.2.1 Past AGM Resolutions

The following resolved at the 2015 AGM:

"Past ordinary resolutions, which are inactive for two years will require validation."

*A report was presented at the 2016 AGM where the active resolutions adopted at the AGM were listed. The report also identified the resolutions that lapsed at the conclusion of the 2016 AGM. A progress report of the active resolutions is presented at **Attachment 4**.*

Mr Abtar Singh Kaler pointed out that the sale of tickets at the Gurdwara Sahib for *Karva Chauth* event was in violation of the 2014 AGM resolution as this event was unrelated to the Sikh tradition.

Resolution

That the progress report of current resolutions appearing at **Attachment 4** be noted.

Proposer Mahesh Inder Singh
Secunder Pushpinder Pal Singh

Amendment:

That the EXCOs continue to provide the progress report on all resolutions passed at General Meetings.

Proposed: Harry
Secunder: Parvender Singh
Carried - Unanimously

6.2.2 Membership fee

Mr Satinder Singh Samra suggested to increase the Life Membership fee to \$500, which was opposed by Mr Amarjit Singh Amar. No amendment was moved to the proposed motion.

Resolution:

- i That the membership fee for Life Members be set at - \$350
- ii That the annual membership fee for Ordinary and Associate Members be set \$35

Proposer: Gurdarshan Singh Kailey
Secunder: Prem Singh Judge

Against 1

Carried

6.2.3 Kitchen Extensions and School Building

*EXCO appointed a sub-committee to progress with the Kitchen Extensions and School Building Project. During the course of the project, the project scope was increased to include additional 200 m² area of the building footprint. At the Kitchen Renovation Sub-committee's recommendation, EXCO resolved to award construction contract of the building to Schearar Projects at the lump sum price of \$1,036,193 (\$1,096,501 less. 5.5% discount) Ex GST, subject to approval at the AGM. Kitchen Renovation Sub-committee's report detailing the progress to date is presented at **Attachment 5**.*

Mr Prem Singh Judge, Mr Amarjit Singh Amar and Mr Zora Singh Gill spoke for the motion

Mr Amarjit Singh Pabla spoke against the motion citing that there was insufficient information to make a decision. Mr Satinder Singh Samra also spoke against the motion expressing his opposition to build school building on the first floor.

In response to Mr Pabla's comments, there was a suggestion that the EXCO was within its power to award the contract without the requirement of an AGM resolution. Mr Mahesh Inder Singh stated that such matters need to be decided at General Meetings as it exposes the Association to significant financial risk. In response to another comment Mahesh also clarified that he did not have any role in the planning of the proposed building other than his responsibilities as member of the EXCO.

Resolution:

It was suggested to include the word "fixed" with lump sum, which was accepted by the proposer and seconder.

- i That the EXCO decision to award contract to Schearer Projects at a lump sum fixed price of \$1,036,193 be endorsed.
- Ii That additional \$400,000 (the total cost now being \$1.2m) be allocated for the completion of the project.

Proposer: Prem Singh Judge
Secunder: Gurdarshan Singh Kailey
Against: 8
Favour: 57
Carried with majority vote

6.2.4 Fire Hydrant

As a result of enquiries to the relevant authorities, the Kitchen Renovations Sub-committee discovered that the current requirement for the existing Gurdwara and proposed development is for two Fire Hydrants. Accordingly, the existing development is non-compliant. The cost to install the additional fire hydrants is estimated to be \$60,000.

Mr Sarawan Singh Vagel pointed out that Fire hydrant should be compliant for any future developments. Mr Amarjit Singh Amar endorsed that view.

Resolution:

That the additional fire hydrants be installed at an estimated cost of \$60,000 as a matter of priority.

Proposer: Prem Singh Judge
Secunder: Paramjit Singh Nagra
Carried unanimously

6.3 Ordinary Motions with financial implications submitted by Members

{In accordance with SAWA Constitution members may submit their Motions having financial implications by 30 June}

- 6.3.1 Budget request for 2017-18 financial year for Adenia Park, Kings Park and other similar outdoor events.

{EXCO Comment: The intent of the following motion appears to be to carry out an annual event at the war memorial. However, the funds requested should be the responsibility of the EXCO to plan these events and incur the appropriate expenditure. Accordingly, it will be appropriate to amend the motion eg "SAWA organises an annual event at Kings Park – War memorial

to commemorate Indian Anzac Nain Singh Sailani and install a memorial plaque at the next ceremony to be held in 2018.”}

Background : Ordinary resolution 6.1.1 passed unanimously at SAWA AGM held in year 2011 - “ *SAWA moves that an event must be organised every year by SAWA exco at the Adenia Park Sikh Cemetery to commemorate the history and the significance of the site*”.

In appreciation of 7 annual events held at Adenia Park since 2011 and substantial progress made in research about Sikh history in WA – a proposal is made to SAWA members to allocate a suitable amount annually towards promotion of Sikh history and heritage and other similar events.

Major events

- Annual event at Adenia Park - Riverton on 1st weekend of March each year for the last 7 years.
- Open Day at SAWA premises.
- Participation in Anzac Day parade at City of Canning for the last 4 years
- Harmony day and other community event for example - Harrisdale
- Anzac Nain Singh Sailani remembrance service – Kings Park held on 1st June 2017
- Visit by school students to gurdwara sahib and Adenia Park .

SAWA has recently taken lead amongst various Indian groups by hosting the 100th Anniversary event for Indian Anzac Nain Singh Sailani supported by Cons Gen India – Jandakot MLA Yaz Mubarakai - Army Museum of WA – RSL Canning districts – MHSWA – RWAHS - Canning Districts Hist Society, etc.

Tarunpreet explained the the important role played by ASHA in bringing the awareness to general Community. Also mentioned the importance of placing a plaque in Kings Park for Nairn Singh. He advised that the permission from Parks Authority & RSL has already been obtained.

The Amendment suggested by EXCO which removed the request for funding allocation was accepted by the proposer. The seconder Mr Dhammu was not present at the meeting.

Resolution

SAWA moves that an annual event be organised each year by SAWA exco at Kings Park – War memorial to commemorate Indian Anzac Nain Singh Sailani and Sikh Anzacs. A one off dedicated event for installation of a memorial plaque be held in 2018

Proposer: Tarun Preet Singh
Secunder: Satinder Singh Samra
Carried unanimously

6.4 Ordinary Motions Submitted by Members

6.4.1 Motion by Mr Amarjit Singh Pabla and Mr Tarun Preet Singh

Three members commented on the proposed motion:

- i. Mr Sarawan Singh Vagel – it is not SAWA’s sole responsibility and the other Gurdwara should come on board.
- ii. Mr Parvender Singh – Matter should be further investigated before debating
- iii. Mr Harbhajan Singh Dhalivwal – Someone need to start the process.

Resolution:

That the EXCO is directed to constitute a Working Group to prepare a submission to the state government to introduce Punjabi language in schools. The Working Group to be established no later than 31 October 2017.

Proposer: Amarjit Singh Pabla
Secunder: Tarun Preet Singh
Carried Unanimously

7 Endorsement of the Auditors;

In accordance with the constitutional requirement the outgoing EXCO recommends Harpreet Singh Cheema and Rajinder Singh Sunner to be appointed as Auditors.

Resolution:

That Harpreet Singh Cheema and Rajinder Singh Sunner be appointed as Auditors for the 2017/18 financial year.

Proposer: Paramjit Singh Nagra
Secunder: Pushpinder Pal Singh

Carried Unanimously

8 Authorization of incoming EXCO expenditure limit for all elements linked to a single event.

Last year the expenditure limit for the EXCO for any single project was \$25,000. AGM may authorize the same or a different limit for the 2017/18 financial year. EXCO recommends that this limit be increased to \$35,000.

Resolution:

That the expenditure limit for the 2017/18 EXCO for all elements linked to a single event be set at \$35,000.

Proposer: Amarjit Singh Amar
Secunder: Parvendar Singh

9 Such other matters specified in the Notice convening the AGM;

Nil

10 Declaration of election results and appointment of office bearers of the EXCO and the Trustees by Returning Officer;

All nominations were uncontested and hence there was no voting. The RO declared the results as follows:

Position	Name
President	Mr Gurdarshan Singh Kailay
Vice President	Mr Prem Singh Judge
Secretary	Mr PUSHPINDER PAL SINGH
Assistant Secretary	Mr Bahadur Singh Mann
Assistant Secretary	Mrs Juginder Kaur
Treasurer	Mr Paramjit Singh Nagra
Assistant Treasurer	Mr RAJINDER SINGH BASSI
Assistant Treasurer	Mr SHINGARA SINGH
Committee Members (8 Positions)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Ajmer Singh 2. Mr Amrit pal Singh 3. Mr Harbhajan Singh Dhaliwal 4. Mr Harmeek Singh Kamboj 5. Mrs Jaskiran Kaur Cheema 6. Mr Manveer Singh 7. Mr Parvendar Singh (Parveen) 8. Mr Ranjit Singh

11 Elected President's address / Meeting Closed - 12:00

The incoming President Mr Gurdarshan Singh Kailey spoke very briefly after the announcement by the RO. He welcomed and congratulated the newly elected members of the EXCO. He thanked the retiring EXCO members. He expressed his great satisfaction that the EXCO was elected unopposed.

The President highlighted the significant projects ahead requested support from the members.




Gurdarshan Singh Kailey President SAWA	Mahesh Inder Singh Secretary SAWA Minute Taker
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Respected Sadh Sangat ji,

ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕਾ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਫਤਿਹ ॥

With the grace of the Almighty Waheguru and your support, I have been given the opportunity to serve our community. I am also thankful to the whole EXCO team for their dedication, team work and constructive approach in performing various roles to serve the community. Our team has achieved many significant milestones throughout the year, which would not have been possible without the support of the whole community.

Our youth has played a major role and actively participated in extracurricular activities. Sikh Youth Australia has organised youth camps at various locations, pop up clinics at the Gurdwara Sahib, information stalls at Harmony Day and organised painting exhibition at Canning Vale Gurdwara.

In November 2016, we celebrated Guru Nanak Dev ji Gurburab with pomp and show. Hon Dr. Mike Nahan, MLA, Treasurer of WA at time, represented the Premier of WA at his event. Thanks to all the Pathis and Sewadaars for their services during Akhand Path and Kids Carnival.

This year being the 350th Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, it has been a special year in Sikh history. SAWA has organised numerous functions to celebrate this throughout the year. To list a few, Kar Sewa was organised in the lead up to the Gurburab celebrations, a large number of sewadaars took part in cleaning the Gurdwara Sahib and surroundings. To celebrate Gurburab, we also had Dhadi Jatha and Akhand Path Sahib at Gurdwara Canning Vale. Hon Mark McGowan WA Premier (leader of opposition at that time) and his team attended the function, seeking blessings.

March 2017, was the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Broome during WW2. I had the honor of representing the Sikh Association of WA in Broome, along with CGI and ASHA to pay tribute to Flying Officer Manmohan Singh, who died in Broome on 3rd March 1942, when Japanese aircrafts attacked Flying Boats (Catalina) in Roebuck Bay.

SAWA also organised a Vaisakhi Mela in association with Sikh Gurudwara Perth (Bennett Springs) and Virsa Club, under the banner of 'WA Sikhs' in April 2017. A crowd of thousands enjoyed the vibrant cultural and food festival on the bank of the Swan River in South Perth. Throughout the day the Punjabi Sath team managed the stage and presented folk dances performed by our youth from various clubs in Perth. Volunteers from the Australian Sikh Heritage Association were proudly displaying our historic roots in Australia and contribution of Sikhs in the formative years of this country. SYA also had a mini movie theater showcasing short films on Sikhism throughout the day. Kids enjoyed a huge variety of fun rides and amusements and parents enjoyed Indian culinary delights from various stalls. PCSC members sold raffle tickets with generous prizes on offer. Raghu ji, representing Banga Club, contributed tirelessly on the day.

Consul General of India, Mr Amit Kumar Mishra, Hon Paul Papalia, MLA (Minister for Tourism, Racing and Gaming, Small Business, Defense Issues, Citizenship and Multicultural Interests) and Hon **Tony Krsticevic, MLA** (Shadow Minister for Local Government, Heritage, Culture and Arts, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs) were among the dignitaries to join and address the gathering.

This mela was indeed, a feast for the eyes. Perth city showcased our beautiful weather on the day complementing our amazing foreshore and reflecting our rich heritage. Thanks to everyone involved and our sponsors, New England College, Sparklers Car Wash, Raj Travels and Indian Grocers.

During the first week of June 2017, SAWA held the 100th Anniversary Remembrance Service for Pvt Nain Singh Sailani – 658, 44th Battalion Australian Infantry AIF at State WAR Memorial Kings Park, Perth. Thanks to Tarunpreet Singh (ASHA), whose tireless efforts, highlighted this historical fact, enabling SAWA to lead the organisation of a wreath laying ceremony at Kings Park Memorial. A special thanks to RSL WA and Yaz Mubarakhi, Member of Parliament for assisting SAWA in organising the event in a short time span.

An Open day on 2nd July 2017 was organized by the Sikh Association of WA at Gurdwara Sahib Canning Vale, to raise awareness about Sikh beliefs and values. The wider community was invited to the Gurdwara Sahib and presented with various cultural displays from our Punjabi School, Virsa Club, Punjabi Sath, Australian Sikh Heritage Association and SYA, followed by a power point presentation about Sikh faith and its impact in modern life, inspiring Sikhs of today.

In August 2017, SAWA together with SYA (Sikh Youth Australia) organised a tree-planting drive and viewing of a documentary film, 'The Little Gardener' at Gurdwara sahib, this was a huge success and tremendous effort by our community. The Sikh community is starting a new project called EcoSikhs, whose objective is to connect Sikh values, beliefs and institutions, to the most important environmental issues facing our world today. Punjabi School kids actively participated in this drive, a big thanks to Manveer Singh and Sarabpreet Singh for their efforts.

Also, I am pleased to announce, SAWA Punjabi School is now open every Saturday and Sunday. This is a milestone, as we now have the opportunity to offer Punjabi classes twice a week. I extend my special gratitude to Mrs Nirbir Kaur Mann for her devotion in teaching our future generations, our school Manager, Mrs Jaskiran Kaur Cheema, our dedicated school teachers, Mrs Manjit Kaur Bassi, Mrs Pritpal Kaur, Mrs Paramjit Kaur and Mrs Amandeep Kaur Brar for their tireless efforts.

From 2017 onwards, some WA school students will have access to Australia's proud Sikh history, which is to be included in the school curriculum for years 5, 6 and 9 students. The Australian Sikh Heritage Association and History Teachers Association of WA (HTAWA) have joined hands to complete this task. SAWA has provided \$10k for this project.

The 30th Annual National Sikh Games were held in Adelaide in April 2017, where more than 120 players from Virsa Club, PCSC and WA Hockey Club represented Western Australia. I acknowledge the hard work and efforts put in by all the players and

coaches of the respective clubs. We are all proud of them for their display of excellent sportsmanship. I wish them well in forthcoming ventures.

Our Punjabi Radio Program (Punjabi Awaz Perth) is broadcasted twice a week, Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings each week. All the presenters & volunteers deserve big accolades for their continuous commitment and efforts. Amritpal Singh almost accomplishing his 25th year of broadcasting the Punjabi Program. What a great effort, well done!

Additionally, our building extension project committee has done a tremendous job under the lead of SAWA Vice President Prem Singh Judge. The comprehensive report is enclosed for your reference.

Above all, thanks to all the volunteers for their continuous sewa in the kitchen, langar hall, prayer hall and carrying out day to day tasks. Mr Bhupinder Singh Brar and EXCO members have successfully managed seamless operation and management of our Kitchen. There are countless number of young sewadars, who have also contributed on a regular basis in maintaining the Langar Hall and Kitchen area every Sunday. May Waheguru bless them with good health and keep in Chardikala.

To conclude, I would like to thank my family, SAWA EXCO, SAWA Trustees and the whole community for being a source of encouragement, guidance and support in my year of service.

Thanking you
Gurdarshan Singh Kailley.

6 September, 2017

ATTACHMENT A

WAHEGURU JI KA KHALSA , WAHGURU JI KI FATEH

Wishing everyone present a very good morning.

Thank you for taking your precious time to attend this meeting and its very encouraging to notice that our members have a keen interest in SAWA's affairs.

It has been very humbling to have served SAWA in this capacity and I am again thankful to all our members for giving me this opportunity to serve the sangat.

A year has gone by and SAWA has contributed extensively towards our community and the wider Australian community. SAWA and our Sikh community has risen to the true believe and values of Sikhism through care and compassion during times of dire need.

SAWA had raised \$8000 towards the Yarloop Fire Disaster Relief Fund in support of our fellow Australians and another \$10,000 towards the successful kidney transplant for one of our Sikh youth who had come here as a student.

Here, I thank our sangat for their overwhelming support and generosity.

At the last AGM, SAWA Exco was tasked to submit the plans for Additional Facilities for our Gurdwara Sahib. The plans were submitted to the City of Gosnells and approval was received early this year. Subsequently our appeal to exempt SAWA from ODP payment for this new project site and the existing built -up area, was also granted.

Now, that the detail plans are ready, SPDC chairman will be presenting the project for consideration at this AGM.

I thank our SPDC for the tireless effort towards this positive outcome.

SAWA Exco has carried out some essential improvements to our guru-ghar. The patio was extended and some rollers shutters were installed to whether proof the relevant areas. Two new reverse-cycle units were installed at the darbar and another 3 air-conditioners that were donated by sangat to SAWA and were also installed at our darbar sahib. I thank the donors.

Our ground floor requires resurfacing from the existing tiles to non -slip tiles and we had an opportunity to purchase non-slip tiles at a heavily discounted price and it is essential that this risk-hazard mitigation project be carried out as soon as possible. It poses a serious liability to our organisation should any member sustain a serious injury. There have been many cases of our senior members falling and injuring themselves.

Our members and the wider sangat, have repeatedly requested that our Gurdwara Kitchen and the area for washing large cooking pots and dining plates etc be looked into owing to wet and slippery floor and the congestion during and after prayers, and that the workplace be made safe and to meet the required standards of Safety laws. Exco has prepared a preliminary proposal for consideration at this AGM.

Currently, our community is facing new challenges. We are all aware that Sikhs have fallen victims of mistaken identity by misinformed individuals from the wider Australian community. Our gurughar has been vandalised many times over the years and our community elders living in close proximity to our gurughar who walk to our gurughar have also been repeatedly verbally abused especially on roads surrounding our gurdwara. A special awareness programme need to be initiated to promote and publicise our beliefs and values to the wider Australian community.

Within our sangat we also have conflicting views on how our religious programmes are to be conducted owing to our different backgrounds. Our religious programmes and procedures need to be streamlined and should not be to be influenced by any foreign individual or any external or foreign events.

It is also very apparent that our youth are staying away from our gurughar, religious ceremonies and community service activities. Early this year, SAWA introduced a Naujawan Satsang programme, a pilot project to engage our youth. The response from our youth had not been forthcoming and after a few months the programme had to be temporarily suspended. We need to address the issue holistically.

It also very apparent that participation at Kaar Sewa at our Gurughar has not been encouraging. It is very essential that we promote this activity to develop a sense of belonging to our gurughar, especially within our youth.

There are a few amendment required to make SAWA Constitution compliant to the New Associations Act, and I request that the in-coming Exco looks into this matter.

It is generally acknowledged that as individual families we Sikhs are noticeably very successful in our personal endeavours but as a community we are lagging far behind compared to other new migrant communities. We need to transcend our sense of individualism and territorial backgrounds and start working to create a new Local Sikh Community to prepare our community of the challenges of the future. It's long overdue that we embark on this line of thought.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our sewadar and sewadarnian for their tireless effort in preparation of guru- ka- langgar and overall care and smooth functioning of our gurughar. I also thank our Panjabi school manager and teachers for their service to SAWA.

I like to acknowledge and thank Giani Jasvinder Singh Ji and Giani Balbir Singh Ji for their services to our sangat. Here I also congratulate our members that Giani Jasvinder Singh Ji's visa has been extended til the end of 2017.

Last, but not least, I thank my Exco committee for all the support they have given me throughout our term in office.

Thank you.

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh.