

Minutes Annual General Meeting Russian House Melbourne

20th February 2022

Present: President, committee members and members of the Russian House

- Meeting started at 1.10 with a prayer led by George Lavrin.
- The Treasurer A. Kozulin established that a quorum had been reached with the attendance of 29 financial members and 32 proxies. There being a total of 103 fully paid-up members of the Russian House.
- G. Lavrin was selected as chairperson of the AGM. Scrutineers J. Milovanovic and Constantin Illinov as well as the Minutes secretary I. Schkola were elected without opposition.
- Minutes of the previous AGM in March 2021 had previously been sent out to the members and were now accepted.

President of the Russian House's Report (report tabled)

- Anatoliy Zhuravlev commenced his report as President of the Russian House by thanking all who were present despite existing difficulties. He made clear that this report was on the behalf of the whole committee of the R.H.
- Despite difficulties imposed on us all due to the pandemic much was achieved. One important concern was the collapse of part of the stucco on the façade near the main entry. The entrance needed to be blocked off, consultation was sought from experts in this area. Disparate quotes have been received and now need to find means to finance the repairs. Suggestions were sought from members present. Three different sources have been looked at. These are grants from the Government, credit from banks and private organisations and donations from private individuals both members and non-members. Each of these have come with their own constraints and solutions are well in place.
- Renovation to the dining room has been undertaken including the replacement of the glass of the windows sympathetic to the era and style of the initial construction of the building. Many plans have been made for further work in this room.
- The old refrigerator/freezer in the kitchen needed replacing. J. Milovanovic arranged purchase of a new dual door commercial fridge, which he donated to the Russian House.
- Cultural activities have taken place within the confines of the restrictions imposed by the State Government. Some of these include an evening with the journalist Ekaterina Danova, meetings with Friends of the R.H. and lectures on topics such as health and the library. Future activities were announced amongst these were a dance exhibition, pancake week celebration (Maslenitsa), children's competitions, classical music events, pensioners' club and folk dancing.
- The involvement of the younger members of the Russian Community is an important focus of the R.H. Many long-term plans have been made and a new web site for the House is being designed.

- Much work has been done in the library with plans for further renovations to take place there.
- All members of the R.H. were personally thanked for their work and the sacrifices that they had made on the behalf the House. Both G. Lavrin and A Kozulin were thanked in particular for their contributions.

Questions from the Floor to the President

- Suggestions were made by various members for raising money for repairs. Amongst these were from M. Keskevich who proposed that the committee look into tax deductions for donations to the House and S. Kerry referred to 1 for 1 donations from the Government. A Zhuravlev assured that this would be looked into. The treasurer is already looking into various ways of raising money.

The President's Report accepted unanimously

Financial Report presented by A. Kozulin, Treasurer of the Russian House (report tabled)

The cash flow summary was presented with a total of \$71,126.57 received and an expenditure of \$37, 368.43 in the last financial year. Funds available as of 30 June 2021 were \$131.187.43. Major sources of income were from rent of the premises and grants. Major expenses were on the upkeep of the building such as painting of the exterior, repair of the roof, toilets and floors.

Questions from the Floor to the Treasurer

The Treasurer was asked if there was a possibility of claiming insurance on the repair work to the façade but we were told that the insurance company looks upon this work as maintenance so no funds received.

The Treasurer's Report accepted unanimously

Internal Auditors' Report (presented by N. Zolotuhin)

The internal auditors found everything correct and accounted for.

The Auditors' Report accepted unanimously

Election of the Executive Committee Members

President: A. Zhuravlev

Vice President: G. Lavrin

Secretary: J. Milovanovic

Treasurer: A. Kozulin

All voted in without opposition.

Election of Non-Executive Committee Members

- Vera Kalashnikova
- Marina Keskevich
- Luba Cowall
- Valentina Kuleshova
- Veronika Lavrin
- Egor Sadanov
- Ian Smith
- Alyona Illin (to be seconded by Committee)

All voted in unanimously

Normally there are 7 non-executive members but this year Alyona Illin has been seconded to the Russian House from the Russian Ethnic Representative Council.

G. Lavrin brought to V. Kalashnikova's notice that in this committee members no longer have certain areas that they are solely responsible for. Now all are required to help out wherever work is being done and that there is no possibility of opting out of certain chores and duties. V. Kalashnikova assured the members that she is determined to work wherever necessary in the Russian House. The president, A. Zhuravlev stressed the importance of all committee members to work co-operatively as one team.

Election of Internal Auditors

- Volk-Levonovich and N. Zolotuhin voted in as Internal Auditors without opposition

General Business

No issues were lodged in written form 7 days prior to the AGM.

- Sika Kerry made a number of suggestions for raising money:
 - The sale of books on Russian migration on the premises a percentage of which would go to the Russian House.
 - Lottery for Maslenitsa or possibly other events for which she is prepared to organise.
- S. Kerry also brought to our notice that the newspaper, Unification is celebrating its 70th anniversary. As this newspaper started in Melbourne something should be done to commemorate it.
- A. Zhuravlev suggested that multiple copies of books held in the library could also be sold.
- L. Cowall has multiple copies of Australiada which she has donated for sale for R.H.

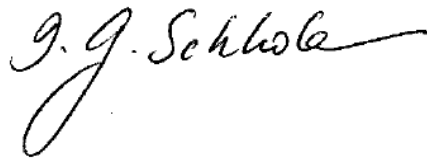
These matters will be raised at committee meetings.

- Andrei Krasnov a former committee member withdrew from the committee as he was not vaccinated. The committee is grateful for this gesture and thanks him for his work and contributions during the last year.
- Nona Panova raised the concern that older members who do not have access to electronic mail need to receive all notifications from the R.H. in the mail or personally.
- J. Milovanovic mentioned that there is now a computer program that is able to show who is not opening their emails from the R. H. and that this may allow the committee to find a solution to this problem.
- L. Zhuravleva was congratulated on her birthday today.

Close of the Official Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2.10 pm

Minute Secretary: Irene Schkola

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "I. G. Schkola". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.