



United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia

Annual General Meeting Minutes 2019

Date Saturday 27th July 2019

Time	2: 30 PM
Venue	Mulgrave Community Centre
Attendees	USMAA Management Committee; Yusuf Zarani, Miqsan Mohinudeen, Shahla Vilcassim, Hishan Naufal, Himshan Ansar, Areeb Hameed, Fazly Badurdeen House represented by; Rizvie Mohideen, Fahmi Haniffa, Eddie Dole, Nawaz Vilcassim, Najeeb, Naufal Sharifdeen, Fayaz Zurfick, Naushad Usoof, Riyaz Yousof, Sharafath Yousof, Ishrath Bachar, Rasmy Kabeer, Babudeen, Niyaz, Jauhar Najeeb, Zabid bin Hamid, Asadh Yusuf Farrah Dole, Mumtaz, Thameena Zarani, Manal Haque, Rushana Usoof, Ayesha Dole, Hajistha , Rizwana,
Apologies:	Omar Fahmi, Saara Imtiaz, Omar Alif

Welcome and Introductions

We had quorum of 40 people. Proceedings commenced with a recital of *qiraath* by Eddie Dole at 2.30 PM.

Acceptance of minutes of previous Annual general meeting 2018

- *Proposed resolution: That the minutes of the 2017/18 annual general meeting be accepted.*
- Moved : Rizvie Mohideen
- Seconded : Fahmi Haniffa



United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia

SGM Minutes 24th November 2018

- As the 2018 SGM Minutes and the changes made to the USMAA Constitution at the 2018 SGM were not submitted to Consumer Affairs within the stipulated 30 day period, the amendments to the USMAA Constitution were reviewed at this 2019 Annual General Meeting and passed unanimously.
- Proposed resolution: That the 2018 SGM Minutes and amendments made to the USMAA Constitution at the **SGM held on 24th November 2018** be confirmed as correct and submit relevant documents (with an updated copy of the USMAA Constitution) to Consumer Affairs within the statutory period.
- Moved: Fahmi Haniffa
- Seconded: Rizvie Mohideen

President's address

Yusuf Zarani delivered a short address. He thanked the Management Committee and their families for their work and support. He briefly spoke about the events which were successful due to good team work together with the support of the senior members of USMAA.

Secretary's Report

Shahla Vilcassim delivered the Secretary's Report going through the membership for 2018/19. A total of 104 members had paid their subscriptions for this year (Financial Members) and we need to encourage other members to attend to the annual payments in time. She outlined the Subcommittees activity for this year. This was followed by a run through of the events for the year. Grants that were received by USMAA were highlighted, including Monash Councils Community Strengthening Program as well as an in-kind grant for use of the Hall as well as the Positive Ageing Sub-committee grant. The importance of keeping up membership numbers as well as greater community participation was highlighted to ensure ongoing support from the Monash City Council.

- *Proposed resolution: That the Secretary's report 2018/19 be accepted*
- Moved: Rizvie Mohideen
- Seconded: Fahmi Haniffa

Update - Janaza Sub-committee (JSC)

Eddie Dole delivered a short address to thank the JSC team and the WIDER community for their support. He also informed the House that the some members of the current JSC will be stepping down this year.

Treasurer's Report

Hishan Naufal delivered the Treasurer's report. The Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2019 demonstrated an overall increase of income for USMAA. He pointed out that, despite a large number of members not paying the annual subscription, the Management Committee had been very prudent in managing the finances of the association and leaving a healthy balance for the future years.



United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia

- **Acceptance of financial statements**
- *Proposed resolution: That the financial statements tabled at the annual general meeting be accepted.*
- Moved: Nawaz Vilcassim
- Seconded: Eddie Dole

Appointment of an auditor

Proposed resolution: That Mr Paul Liu from M&T Tax is appointed as USMAA's auditor for the next reporting period.

Moved: Fahmi Haniffa

Seconded: Nawaz Vilcassim

Other Matters

1. USMAA annual membership fee structure

The Executive Committee proposed that the House adopt a resolution to increase the membership fee with immediate effect for the following reasons:

- Given the rising cost of catering and other logistics it is vital for the future sustainability of the organisation that it does not run at a loss.
- Fees have not increased in over 10 years.
- We need to full proof USMAA financially for the future as we cannot always be reliant on grants.
- We can provide increased benefits for financial members.

Majority voted in favour of the increase (detailed below) and this resolution was passed.

New Fee Structure

Family membership	to increase from \$50 to \$75
Pensioner couples	to increase from \$25 to \$30
Individual pensioners	to increase from \$10 to \$20
Individual membership	to increase from \$30 to \$40
Student membership	no change



United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia

1. Janaza Scheme – recommendations

Fahmi Haniffa recommended having two working groups in the JSC: one group to prepare and manage a workable *janaza* financial scheme that will benefit all USMAA members (with expertise drawn from our community) and the other group for the provision of *janaza* related services. He said that his recommendations should be considered by the future Management Committee in consultation with the JSC.

In relation to this matter, some views expressed by the House included:

- The cost of burial plots will continue to increase and USMAA needs to maintain plots for the long term.
- Currently members are encouraged to purchase their own plots and can voluntarily disclose these details to the JSC for their records.
- There is a need to demonstrate a benefit if a member contributes regularly to the *Janaza* Scheme. At the moment there are no guarantees of a free burial site (unless financial hardship is demonstrated).

3. Grants for USMAA

Executive Committee highlighted the issue of ongoing council grant support as rules and regulations become more stringent due to need to distribute these funds across the increasing number of community organisations. Rizvie Mohideen raised the point regarding the in-kind grant which is dependent upon the percentage of people living in the South-East suburbs. Asadh Yusuf suggested creating a grants Subcommittee to focus on grant applications to allow for ongoing support for USMAA.

Proposed Resolution	Moved	Passed
Creating a Grants Sub-committee to focus on grant applications for USMAA	Asadh Yusuf	Majority voted in favour of resolution and was passed

4 USMAA Community Centre – Building Fund Project

The Management Committee drew the attention of the House to the proposed USMAA, Inc. Community Centre and the monies collected to date (\$25,000) and correctly allocated in the USMAA accounts as funds reserved for the USMAA Building Project. The Management Committee was of the view that the funds were raised under the USMAA banner and must stay within the association.

In relation to the above matter, Sharafath Yousuf and Riyaz Yousuf said that:

1. The money allocated in the USMAA accounts for the USMAA Building Fund must be transferred to a new entity called 'Crescent Community'.



United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia

2. The committee in charge of this project announced at the 2018 AGM that a separate incorporated body known as 'Crescent Community' was created to manage the building project and to manage the building fund. They are currently in the processing of obtaining DGR status for the entity called 'Crescent Community'.

Concerns were raised by USMAA Management Committee as well as Trustees along with members of the House regarding the creation of this new incorporated body (created without the official permission of the USMAA general membership) and the request to transfer USMAA funds to that new entity. During the discussions it was pointed out that:

1. The creation of a new entity connected to USMAA, Inc. would have required 28 days' notice to stakeholders as well as a resolution proposed and seconded at the previous meeting (i.e. 2018 AGM) followed by the appointment of office bearers to that entity, which was **not the case** as documented in the 2018 AGM Minutes.
2. As 'Crescent Community' is a separate body, it cannot be legally under USMAA governance and funds raised for a USMAA project cannot be allocated to any other entity or for any other purpose.
3. As these charitable funds were donated in the name of USMAA for an USMAA Community Centre, the funds should remain under the USMAA banner.
4. The Building Sub-Committee should remain as a Sub-Committee of USMAA.

Proposed Resolution	Moved and Seconded	Passed
The USMAA Building Project and project funds in the USMAA Bank Account must be under the control of USMAA, Inc. and the funds cannot be used for any other purpose.	Fahmi Haniffa Zabid Bin Hamid	Majority voted in favour of this resolution and was passed

General Election for 2019/20 Committee

1. Positive Ageing Subcommittee – nominations received prior to due date:
 - a. Farrah Dole
 - b. Sithy Marikar
2. USMAA Management Committee
 - a. Nomination received for the position of President - Naushad Usoof (prior to due date).
 - b. There were no other nominations.
 - c. Executive team positions were not filled



United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia

- d. The current Management Committee and members of the House proposed postponing elections to a Special General Meeting (**SGM**); call for fresh nominations to all positions in the Management Committee and Sub-Committees; and current Management Committee to go into 'care taker mode' until the SGM. The proposal to call for an SGM and current Management Committee to go into 'care taker mode' was unanimously agreed upon by the House.
- e. The current Management Committee will call for an SGM to conduct elections once hall availability has been finalised.

The AGM was adjourned (halfway through the proceedings) due to a small fire in the oven which was brought under control quickly with no injuries or damage to the property. Everyone was evacuated from the building and the Melbourne Fire Brigade were in attendance.

The meeting ended at 6:00 PM with the recital of a short *dua* by Naufal Sharifdeen.