

Minutes
Friends of Sabeel Australia Incorporated
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
12 November 2008

St Francis Theological College, 233 Milton Rd, Milton 4064 -7.00pm

1. The meeting began at 7:20 pm with a prayer offered by Revd Dr Gregory Jenks (President)

2. Attendance Sheet and Apologies:

Twelve members were present, as listed in the attendance sheet.

Apologies: Kevin & Marie Walsh, Anne Lanham (in Palestine), Trish Bevan, Sr Josephine Margaret Warne C.H.N., Dr Jenny Te Paa, Alan & Denise Nichols (Melbourne), Sister Gillian Gardiner SSA, Denis Scanlan, Rev Denis & Lesley Oakley (Palestine), Dr Kevin Bray, Fr Clarrie & Alison Gomersall, Anne Dawson, Eve James.

Rule 24: Quorum at General Meeting

24.1 At any general meeting the number of members present required to constitute a quorum shall be double the number of members presently on the Management Committee, plus one.

As there are currently 8 Management Committee Members, an attendance of 17 is required to constitute a quorum. The AGM could not therefore proceed.

Those members in attendance agreed that the meeting would proceed as a Management Committee meeting and only business appropriate to that body would be handled.

3. Adoption of Minutes of 2007 AGM:

The Chair read the minutes from the 2007 AGM.

Motion: That the minutes be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Revd Dr Ray Barraclough

Seconded: Loraine Stafford

Carried:

4. President's Report

The President, Revd Dr Gregory Jenks presented his annual report

Motion: That the President's Report be accepted.

Moved: Revd Dr Gregory Jenks.

Seconded: Revd Dr Ray Barraclough

Carried:

There was then general discussion about aspects of the President's Report

5. Treasurer's Report

As the Treasurer Fr Clarrie Father Gomersall was unable to attend due to illness, the financial records of the association were presented by the Secretary, Greg Marsh. He presented details of individual income and expenditure items and tabled the annual financial statement.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted and the financial statement adopted

Moved: Greg Marsh

Seconded: Dr John Roberts

Carried:

Motion: That the association gift \$1,000 to the Nazareth Branch of Sabeel, made up of the \$674.73 that was received as member donations specifically for this purpose, together with the balance of \$325.27 from general association funds.

Moved: Greg Marsh

Seconded: John Stafford

Carried

6. General Business

Khalil Hamdan advised the meeting of current activities within the Australian Palestinian community and a discussion ensued.

Revd Dr Ray Barraclough spoke about a recent article in the Canberra Times in regard to the Australian Government's decision to join most of the world and vote against Israel on two United Nations resolutions.

It was decided that FOSAU would send a letter to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and that members be also urged to write.

7. Close

The President closed the meeting at 8:30 pm and invited guest speaker, Fr Jim Minchin to address those present.

Adjourned Annual General Meeting - 19th December 2008

1. The President, Revd Dr Gregory Jenks opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and explained that this was the adjourned Annual General Meeting held to consider the financial statements and finalise the election of office bearers.

As two people had resigned from the Management Committee, the number required for a quorum was now 13.

2. Attendance Sheet and Apologies:

16 members were present, as listed in the attendance sheet.

Apologies: Sister Gillian Gardiner SSA, Lyn Moorfoot, Alan Matheson, Ruth Akie, Rev Denis Oakley, Drs John and Gwenneth Roberts, Jenny Te Pa and Fr Jim Minchin

3. Treasurers report.

Secretary, Greg Marsh, distributed copies of the 2008 financial statement for those members who had not attended the meeting of 12 November. He also presented an interim financial statement for the period 1 July 2008 until 19 December 2008.

Motion: That the treasurer's report be adopted.

Moved: Treasurer, Fr Clarrie Father Gomersall

Seconded: Lorraine Stafford

Carried

4. Election of members of the Management Committee

The President reported on the current situation in regard to legal requirements for the continued incorporation of the association in Queensland. For such continued incorporation, the Secretary of the association must be a resident of Queensland.

All positions were declared vacant.

The Chair notified the meeting that the constitution required the election of a four person management committee – President, Vice President, Treasurer and one other member. He explained that a Secretary also needed to be appointed, but the secretary need not be a member of the Management Committee.

He further advised that Fr Jim Minchin (Melbourne) was available to serve as Vice-President and Rev Denis Oakley (Melbourne) was available to serve as a committee member.

Fr Clarrie Gomersall was asked if he would be available to continue as Treasurer, but he was not.

Former Secretary, Greg Marsh suggested that the association should consider looking at the organisational model, prior to electing a new committee. He suggested that the current model was flawed and that we risk perpetuating the inactivity of past committees unless we address this. He suggested that, as a "grassroots" organisation, Friends of Sabeel Australia should try to follow the example of the more successful Friends of Sabeel UK and canvass its general membership to find those with skills, energy, enthusiasm and the time to make a contribution at a national level. He further suggested that any committee, elected at this meeting, should be considered an interim committee, pending the implementation of the above strategy.

A general discussion ensued, but this did not result in a formal resolution.

There being no other nominations for the positions of Vice-President or Member, the Chair declared Fr Jim Minchin and Rev Denis Oakley duly elected.

He then called for nominations for the positions of President and Treasurer.

Greg Marsh nominated Revd Dr Gregory Jenks for the position of President and Dr Jenks accepted, but said he would prefer this to be a short-term appointment, as his other responsibilities limited his available time.

Revd Dr Gregory Jenks nominated Revd Dr Ray Barraclough for the position of Treasurer and Dr Barraclough accepted

Lorraine Stafford nominated Greg Marsh for the position of Secretary and he accepted the (non-committee) position for a period of four months until 30 April 2009.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared all positions filled.

5. Guest Speaker

Anne Lanham delivered a short speech on her impressions after attending the recent International Sabeel Conference in Jerusalem.

A discussion ensued.

6. Close

The President thanked all those present and declared the meeting closed at 8 pm.