



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Body Meeting of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston ("ZAH") was held on March 27, 2022, at the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center ("ZHCC"), 8787 West Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77071 at 1:00 p.m.

The ZAH EC members present were Khursheed B Dastur, Nozer N Dungor, Khursheed Hormuzdi, Percy Katrak, Kershaw Khumbatta.

THE ZAH EC members absent were Farokh Billimoria, Kamalrukh Gandhi

Nozer N. Dungor chaired the meeting.

1. Invocations

After the Invocation, the meeting was convened.

2. Quorum

Khursheed B. Dastur announced that the quorum had been established – 100 members were required to establish quorum, and 118 members were present.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Sheroy Haveliwala motioned approval of the agenda, which was seconded by Jehanbux Mehta, and unanimously approved.

4. Approval of the Minutes of 2021 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held in 2021 as well as all the 2021 subcommittee reports that had been provided prior to the meeting, were posted on the ZAH website. Jehanbux Mehta motioned approval of the minutes which was seconded by Arnavaz Sethna, and unanimously approved.

The various ZAH subcommittees then presented their annual reports, which had been previously posted onto the ZAH website:

5. The Chairperson's Report was presented by Nozer Dungor. He thanked all ZAH volunteers from various committees including:

- The ad hoc finance team with Kershaw Khumbatta, Nazanin Sarkari, Arnavaz Sethna, Lyla Daroga, Jasmin Katrak for keeping the books in order
- BMSC for their diligence in keeping the rentals and revenues coming
- Entertainment Committee (EntC) for all the events that they bring to the community
- IMT team for keeping our investments growing
- Atash Kadeh (AK) committee and Mobeds for their commitment to the prayers
- Web team for keeping ZAH website updated
- BMC let by Yezdi Engineer for keeping the Center premises functioning and maintained.
- Landscape Committee for keeping our premises green and colorful through the



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seasons

- Outreach committee for all the outreach related programs through the year
- Legacy committee for their work on scholarship selection and distribution year after year
- Publication Committee for keeping the community connected through eblasts, Manashni, social Media
- Sunday School teachers who keep our kids engaged regarding religious and cultural aspects
- All other countless volunteers who help keep ZAH running

He also thanked his fellow EC members for their support.

6. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Kershaw Khumbatta. Jehanbux Mehta requested that year to year comparison figures be presented in the future. Questions from the audience were addressed
7. EC Chairperson proposal was present by Kayo Sidhwa
He explained the changes being proposed to the ZAH Bylaws for enabling the community to elect the Chairperson to the ZAH Executive Committee
Kaermez Dotiwala asked if there was anything in the proposal to remove the chairperson by the general body
Response was that this will follow the normal process for removal of any EC member.
8. eFarganyu App Proposal
Jamshed presented the eFarganyu app which is available to download on the iPhone. He is working on an Android version as well. He mentioned that currently 35 children are using it between US and Canada

Khushroo Vimadalal asked if adding more prayers will add to the cost. The response was in the affirmative.

9. EC member speeches
The three candidates for EC member positions gave their speeches
Kershaw Khumbatta:
Thanked for opportunity to serve on the EC thus far. He said it was an honor to serve and he has doing so, especially giving back to the community. He mentioned that the entire EC works as a team

Nikita Gagrat:

Has been in Houston for 8 years and have enjoyed the community which has lived up to the hype. She said that she was a passionate and ethical person and has volunteered in different non-profit organizations. She is now ready to dedicate her time for the community. She



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thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and give back to the community.

Jasmine Mistry:

She has been involved in the past and currently with ZAH and has been a chair and co-chair multiple times on various committees. She is passionate about giving back to the community and about the Youth group. She has been involved with the Youth since 2006, hosting multiple events. She has also served on boards externally. She said that she is an inclusive and passionate leader and will serve in that capacity

Khushroo Vimadala

Thanked those who volunteered for the committee. He has studied in Mumbai and has worked in the Maritime industry and captained ships. He spent 20 years in New Jersey and served on board of ZAGNY, He took part in the inauguration of the Atash Kadeh and has a desire to serve the community.

10. Youth Report was presented by Shanaya Vakil

- The Youth Group had the Annual Christmas party which was well attended. There were various activities such as cookie decoration, visit from Santa
- The Carnival event was in September and the Youth sold kabobs and other items. The blood drive was also highly successful
- On 19th and 20th Feb, there was a lock-in for Middle and Youth group with thanks to Jasmine Mistry and Sunday School teachers
- 2 officers performed a dance for Navroze event

11. IMT team report was presented by Vispi Sagar and Jamshed Elavia

- Vispi Sagar gave a summary of the ZAH portfolio. He said we started with \$1.27M and ended at \$1.43M at end of year with a \$160k increase. Return for year was 12.6%.
- Jamshed E and Vispi S have worked together for 20 years and continue to look to do better and keep a scorecard and show what is happening with the portfolio.
- Jamshed Elavia mentioned that a Reserve Study was done because we want to be sure that 30 years from now also, we keep the assets working and avoid additional costs and other financial ramifications.
- He appreciated Yezdi Engineer for his efforts to make sure that our assets and building premises are well-maintained.

12. Entertainment Committee Report was presented by Zia Anklesaria.

- The year 2021 was busier than previous year and the community played an integral part in the events that we had.
- The Jashne Sadeh was a virtual event. Vehishta Kaikobad and Khursheed Dastur put a virtual program together; The event was hosted from Banafsheh and Toshar Mondegarian's home and backyard. Bingo and trivia were organized by Yasmin Medhora



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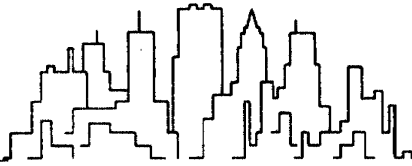
- For March Navroze, we had boxed lunches with Banafsheh Mondegarian and Serena Sethna providing the desserts
- The Gahambar was sponsored by Aban Rustomji and family in memory of Late Purvez Rustomji
- The Carnival was an in-person event with food orders placed online. The Carnival raised over \$10k with thanks to Yasmin Medhora
- The October Gahambar was sponsored by Kersi Engineer and family. The Atash Kadeh committee was thanked for participating in all the events via Jashans.
- Zia mentioned that it takes a village to put these events together and many folks pitch in and donate to keep the costs down. She thanked the Youth who help set up the tables and help with serving the food.
- EntC tries their best to keep events affordable. However, the costs are going up, so they have to be creative about keeping the costs down. EntC is looking for sponsors to help with the costs for the events
- All the EntC folks were recognized and thanked
- She thanked the membership for paying for the events online
- Sheroy Haveliwala seconded that the Entertainment Committee is the most underappreciated ZAH committee

13. The Library Committee Report Q&A was represented by Aban Rustomji.

- Members of library committee have been working together for over 20 years.
- She announced World Congress coming up in July where they will honor a wonderful lady – Bapsi Sidhwa.
- She appealed to the membership that even if you do not come to these events, please look at the calendar on ZAH website and not schedule private events on the same days as Library events. The Library Committee only has a couple of events a year and they would like more people to attend.
- She mentioned that there are a lot of books in the library and many talented people within the community writing about a variety of topics.
- She said that ZAH is a leader in every aspect and that they have started the process of recording the history of ZAH. She appealed to the community to help record history of ZAH.

14. Atash Kadeh Committee report was presented by Khushrav Nariman

- Khushrav thanked the Mobeds and young Mobeds for joining the prayers and supporting the Atash Kadeh. He mentioned that the fire was kept burning through covid, freeze etc.
- Now that Covid is almost done, more people have started attending in person and that we will continue to stream prayers via Zoom as well, so that people across and outside the country can attend too. The links to Zoom are on the Atash Kadeh web page.
- He thanked all the volunteers
- He mentioned that similar to the recognition wall for Vision 2020 donors, the Atash Kadeh will do a similar effort and will inform the community of the same.



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- Rustom Engineer mentioned that the Atash Kadeh is the pride of our dynamic community.
- Atash Kadeh committee is diligently working on a proposal for prepayment of after-life ceremonies.
- He asked for support from the community for the Atash Kadeh

15. The Building Maintenance Committee Report was presented by Yezdi Engineer.

- Yezdi Engineer mentioned that a lot of items were addressed this year - Freeze damage ruined the dance floor which was replaced; Donation plaques were installed. The big Farohar was installed outside with the help of contractors. It also has lights on it at night.
- An uninvited guest (a possum) had been visiting ZAH. Yezdi Engineer and Aderbad Tamboli found the opening on the roof through which the critter was entering the premises. This opening was fixed.
- He reminded the community that the entrance gate is only for entrance and requested to not exit from the entrance gate.
- He mentioned that ZHCC is a big building about 10-20 times an average house and hence 10-20 times the maintenance. He recommended to have a maintenance contract to do routine maintenance.

16. The Building Management Sub-Committee Report was represented by Pervin Sagar.

- We have started to see events after being isolated for 1 year. Thus far there have been 16 events - 6 non-member rental ; 1 member rental and remaining community events. It is great to see the center being used. She asked that the community use it with love.
- She requested the community to clean-up after themselves and to not dump personal items that they do not need at the center.
- She thanked Kershaw Khumbatta for getting a great deal with the tiles contractor to replace the dance floor.
- 2 warmers were replaced as they were infested with maggots due to someone leaving food behind which was discovered by one of our party planners who had brought a potential renter to the community. The 2 warmers were replaced by 1 warmer and it is working well.
- The ZHCC rental fee has been increased to keep up with the market demands of higher costs e.g. Security fees. Even so, the rental fee is still below market for rentals.
- She thanked all the committee members and encouraged younger folks to join the committee.
- Thanked Rustom Khosravian for bringing the Farohar from his house to the Center. And appreciated Yezdi Engineer's efforts for the installation.
- Jamshed Elavia asked if we advertised the rentals. Pervin Sagar responded that since we are a non-profit, there is some kind of a law that prevents advertising. Jamshed Elavia advised that there is no such law. Kershaw Khumbatta mentioned that he will look into it.



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17. The Legacy 2000 Scholarship report was presented by Homi Davier.
- Homi Davier indicated that the kids have done an excellent job with the applications for scholarships. The caliber of applications is increasing and recognition letters are testament to that. Two kids got the awards this year. 3 awards are given out each year. With thanks to the Desai family for the Cyrus Desai Award by contributing \$3000 every year.
 - The Scholarship TOR says that we should give awards from amount earned and not principal. We have less awards than the amount earned that the IMT advised, because we just had two awards this year. The extra money will go back into the pool for next year.
 - High school and college kids can apply for the scholarships
 - When Legacy scholarship was started many years ago, it was started at \$80,000 with Homi Davier and Aban Rustomji on the Committee. With interest and earning legacy fund is \$200,000
18. The CARES Committee Report was presented by Homi Davier
- There are many people on the Cares committee but few volunteers, so Homi Davier plans to restart the committee by resetting the membership and inviting membership all over again.
 - He thanked Lyla Daroga, who quietly delivered food to people. He thanked Nargis Davier for delivering packages to folks
 - He thanked the EC for their support
19. The Publication Committee Report was presented by Arnavaz Sethna
- Keep checking your spam, as sometimes message from Zoroastrian Association of Houston seem to be going to spam.
 - There are 490 email addresses and only about 280 (67%) actually open emails.
 - Team works hard for Manashni.
 - Vispi Katrak puts information on Social media.
 - She appealed to folks to read the Manashni from time to time.
20. The Landscape Committee Report Q&A presented by Jamshed Elavia
- Jamshed Elavia has received multiple suggestions for flowers for the landscape. They have started seeing butterflies and look forward to a colorful spring with a mix of fragrance and colors
21. The Outreach Committee report was represented by Kaemerz Dotiwalla



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- Vision of the Outreach committee is to carry out the message of Asho Zarathushtra and take our flag externally.
- Jan-Feb saw a surge of requests for Interfaith visits
- On 28th Feb Neville Kanga participated in the Rothko chapel anniversary event
- In March Darius B Dastur became the youngest Martab in our community. This makes two Martab Youths in our community - Darius B Dastur and Neville Kanga
- In March Homi Davier did a presentation about Din-e Mazdayasni
- In April, there was the Rothko chapel series of faith event using music and sound. Prayer verses were sung at the Rothko chapel
- On 27th April – Vehishta Kaikobad participated in heritage of Zarathushti art
- In Nov/Dec – For the Interfaith group of thanksgiving services, many folks from our community participated and sang the Ahura Mazda song
- In Nov – Ervad Darius B Dastur and Natasha N Dungor participated in the interfaith ministries event. Ervad Darius B Dastur recited some Gatha excerpts and Natasha N Dungor read the translation.

22. Sport Committee Update was presented by Sheroy Haveliwala

- Sheroy Haveliwala mentioned that we will have activities coming up in the summer break.

23. FEZANA Update was provided by Nazanin Sarkari

- There are multiple ZAH Youth participating in Fezana initiatives.
- Fezana has put a chair for University of Toronto Associate professorship for Department of eastern civilizations. This position is still open and candidate will be selected based on proficiency in literature and religion.
 - ZAH has donated \$1000 for endowment.
- 60% of committee chairs do not attend Fezana AGM in person.
- There is a proposal for reviewing Fezana constitution and making changes. Arnavaz Sethna and Kayo Sidhwa have done a preliminary review. Certain rules are outdated and need to be reviewed and revised. Constitution needs flexibility. Need 75% approval of members to start the review process - voting ends on 16th Apr.
- ZAH Youth are participating in WZC in July and are also active participants on ZYNA. Rayomand Katrak and Zenia Sunavala are the ZAH reps for ZYNA.
- Farzad Sarkari and Mahtab Dastur participated in ZYNA meetings and activities.
- Rayomand Katrak presented at ZAH regarding ZYNA. ZYNA also has a Professional development program.
- World Zoroastrian Congress has representation from our Youth - Mahtab B. Dastur is a moderator at one of the sessions; Natasha N. Dungor is presenting about Ava at the kids Congress. Sabrina Warden, Freyaan Vimadalal, Farzad Sarkari, Mahtab B. Dastur, Natasha N. Dungor are volunteering at the Tween and Teen Congress which is being directed by Vehishta Kaikobad and supported by Khursheed B. Dastur.



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Roshan Engineer mentioned that some families needed items for deceased persons. Mahrukh and Rohintan deputy were gracious to give the white clothes needed. Pervin Sagar has brought a stock of sadras, white rumal, white lega etc. In case the community needs such items during bereavement, please call Arnavaz Sethna.

24. Voting for EC members

- The candidates nominated for the 3 EC open position were
 - i. Kershaw Khumbatta
 - ii. Nikita Gagrat
 - iii. Jasmine Mistry
 - iv. Khushroo Vimadalal

- All candidates gave short speeches to represent themselves
 - i. Kershaw
 - ii. Nikita
 - iii. Jasmine
 - iv. Khushroo

- Voting by anonymous ballot was done on the AGM floor and counted by the Election officers – Raymie Daroga, Zubin Mory, Yasmin Medhora

- The following EC members were elected to the 3 open EC positions:

Kershaw Khumbatta, Jasmine Mistry, Nikita Gagrat

25. Incoming EC members were welcomed, and outgoing EC members thanked

- Election of New EC Members - the following Executive Committee members were elected
 - i. Kershaw Khumbatta
 - ii. Jasmine Mistry
 - iii. Nikita Gagrat

26. Benediction and meeting close

- There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Recorded by Khursheed B Dastur
ZAH Secretary