

SAMM 2023 Annual General Body Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Venue: Zoom Meeting Video Call

Date: October 14th, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Attendees: See attached list of log-ins

1. The Zoom call was initiated at 4:00 PM. We waited for about 10 minutes and started the meeting at 4:10 PM.
2. **Opening Remarks from President:**
 - SAMM President, Mrs. Rasika Ghawghawe welcomed all the members at the meeting and asked SAMM Secretary, Mr. Mihir Choudhari to begin the meeting.
3. **Notes from Secretary:**
 - The secretary started the meeting by taking the quorum count.
 - Total member count for the year 2023 was 228. As per By-Laws, the quorum requirement is of 10%, which is approximately 23 members. There were 25 members online at the start of the meeting. Hence the quorum requirement was met. Additional quorum count would be taken at the time of Amendment voting process.
 - Meeting Agenda and Housekeeping Rules for the meeting was reiterated by the Secretary. Attached in Appendix A.
4. **Updates from VP Events:**
 - Mrs. Lukena Karkhanis took up the position of interim VP Events from May 2023.
 - A detailed overview of all the events that SAMM either hosted, participated or collaborated in the year 2023 was presented. Attached in Appendix B.
 - Around 40 SAMM members participated in the BMM Cricket Tournament held in May 2023 in Houston.
 - A few SAMM members represented Maharashtrian folk dance at the US Travel Association's convention – IPW 2023
 - SAMM also participated in BMM Mashaal at Mandal initiative.
 - 2023 was the 5th year of SAMM Ganpati celebration. The theme for the same was "Panchtatva Dev" at Mahalaxmi Hall, HTSA. The cultural programs for this event was specially curated on the concept of Maharashtra Lokdhara, showcasing the variety of folks dances and music of Maharashtra.
 - SAMM Picnic 2023 was cancelled due to low interest from the community.
 - All events were very well attended and had a good response. Volunteer hours were given to whoever needed. Participation certificates were handed out in a timely manner. Punctuality was maintained for every event.
 - Collaborations in 2023 – Sai Baba Temple, HTSA, Garjana Dhol Tasha & IASA.
 - Upcoming endeavors – SAMM Diwali, Diwali Ank, Diwali SA

SAMM 2023 Annual General Body Meeting

Meeting Minutes

- SAMM has been invited for the IASA India Fest on Nov. 24, 2023. SAMM by itself will not participate in the event, but SAMM members may participate in the event.

5. Updates from Treasurer:

- Membership Update: SAMM has a total membership of 124 in 2023, which is 32% increase since 2022. Total membership collection for 2023 is \$4070. Family and individual memberships remained constant, couple membership increased by 4% and student membership increased by 200%. A fee of 3.49% + 0.49 from PayPal and 1% from Zelle is deducted from these channels.
- Donations Update: SAMM received \$3546.30 in donation from various sponsors and well-wishers in 2023.
- Recurring Expenses: SAMM has some of the recurring expenses like Insurance fee, Zoom and BMM Membership. The total cost of these recurring expenses is \$519.00. Website maintenance expenditure is not annual and hence not accounted for in 2023 recurring expenses.
- Detailed event finances were discussed. A total of \$4946.97 was spent on events for the year 2023.
- The SAMM account balance as of 10/13/2023 stands at \$8401.05.
- Some additional expenses are expected for the upcoming Diwali event and any closeout expenses at the end of the year.

6. Voting Process for proposed Amendments to By-laws:

- The secretary explained the voting process and addressed member queries regarding the same. The voting process was carried out via Vevox.app. Link for the voting session was shared on Zoom meeting chat box for ease of access.
- The Quorum was rechecked with a count of 29. Quorum was met. SAMM President approved the voting process to be initiated.
- A trial poll was conducted. 5 minutes window will be given for the voting.
- One of the SAMM member suggested to have a couple of minutes discussion for the amendments.
- **Amendment 1: Clause 3.3.1**

FROM: "Student Membership is open to all students attending an accredited higher education institution. Student Membership is not allowed if the student or his/her spouse in working full-time"

TO: "Any student enrolled in a higher education institution who is also not employed full-time"

Discussion: Following questions were raised:

- The purpose of the amendment?
- What are the underlying benefits projected with this amendment?
- Will the student membership be applicable to all students irrespective of the location of the educational institution & level of coursework enrolled?

SAMM 2023 Annual General Body Meeting

Meeting Minutes

- How fair will this situation be for couples where one of the partners is unemployed compared to a couple with a student & working partner?

The SAMM Treasurer and VP Events responded to these queries. The purpose behind this amendment was to bring-in more student population from the community. This will be applicable to all students irrespective of their institution location and stage, provided they produce a valid Student ID at the time of membership. For the last concern, a justification was provided to treat the Student Membership different from Couple Membership. The idea behind this change was to encourage more student participation and hence provide them with a discounted membership rate. The proposed amendment was just to redefine the qualifier for Student Membership.

Result: 34 members voted. The amendment was passed with 82.35% Yes and 17.65% No.

- **Amendment 2: Clause 4.2.3**

FROM: After the first two years, one of the most senior Advisor shall retire each year on a First in First Out basis.

TO: Two of the advisors will be appointed by the newly formed Board of Directors and the third advisor will be the retiring president from the previous Executive Committee.

Discussion: SAMM President explained that this amendment is proposed because the current condition will not remain applicable as the BoD term was changed from 1 year to 2 years.

Following questions were raised:

- Will the tenure of the Advisory Committee now remain the same as that of the BoD, i.e. 2 years?
- Will all 3 advisors retire at the end of 2 years?
- Can advisors be reappointed for consecutive terms?
- There was a concern that this amendment will destroy the purpose of the Advisory Committee, as 2 out of 3 Advisors will now be appointed by the BoD itself?

SAMM President and Secretary responded to these queries. Yes, as per the proposed amendment, the new tenure of the Advisory committee (AC) will be the same as that of the BoD. The reappointment of the advisors will be completely at the discretion of the SAMM BoD at the time and on the willingness of the individuals to serve for another consecutive Advisory Committee term. A member suggested to specify this condition in words in the By-Laws. For the last concern, a discussion was initiated to know how a conflict of interest was checked during previous AC selection process. Previously AC was formed by volunteer interest

SAMM 2023 Annual General Body Meeting

Meeting Minutes

from among the SAMM members and each year 1 person would exit and the ex-President would join the AC committee. In this process only 1 out of the 3 AC member could be considered as people's choice. However, with the current amendment, 2 out of the 3 members will be of BoD choice and ex-President could be an independent one, that may lead to situation of majority. There is a chance of conflicting situations with this amendment, as the BoD is appointing the majority of the AC whose responsibility is to keep a check on the BoD. A member suggested a meaning amendment to the existing clause should have been "After the first term, one of", to which SAMM BoD contradicted saying then some of the Advisors will have to serve unequal terms which may not be fair to them. The Secretary reiterated that the proposed amendments were shared with all SAMM members a week before the AGM, and no response or concerns from the members regarding the same was received prior to the AGM.

Result: 33 members voted. The amendment was passed with 63.63% Yes and 36.36% No.

- **Amendment 3: Clause 6.1.2.1**

FROM: Organize and manage all cultural events of SAMM. This includes organizing at least 4 such events in a calendar year (i.e., Ganapati, Diwali, Sankranti and Gudi Padwa). This also includes ensuring that SAMM participate in the annual Diwali SA event;

TO: Organize and manage all cultural events of SAMM. This includes organizing at least 4 such events in a calendar year (For example Sankranti, Gudi Padwa, Ganpati, Diwali or Dussehra or Kojagiri). SAMM may optionally participate in events held by other organizations.

Discussion:

- A member misunderstood the amendment as SAMM participation with other organizations to be mandatory.
- With the present clause, was it mandatory for SAMM to participate in all the events of SA Diwali?
- There was a suggestion to remove the names of the events in the for example bracket to avoid the trouble of going over the amendments repeatedly.

VP Events and VP Communication cleared his misunderstanding stating that the amendment is not an Obligation but giving more freedom to the BoD and left to the discretion of the BoD to collaborate/participate in other organization events or not, and additionally which 4 events do the BoD wants to conduct in the calendar year. With the present clause, it seems more like an obligation to participate in all activities of SA Diwali which are Rangoli, Barge, Folk Dance, Bollywood Dance. SAMM does not find enough volunteers to participate in

SAMM 2023 Annual General Body Meeting

Meeting Minutes

multiple activities and hence there some set of same individuals juggling between multiple activities at the same time. Lastly, removing the specific names of the events may lead to too open of a scope.

Results: 33 members voted. The amendment was passed with 90.9% Yes and 9.09% No.

- All amendments were approved and effective immediately.

7. San Antonio Marathi Shala (SAMS):

- Mr. Raju Kulkarni, Principal SAMS, presented the updates for Marathi Shala for the year 2023.
- Est. in 2018, SAMS completed 5 years in 2023. It is affiliated with BMM & Bharati Vidyapeeth.
- The staff and school board members were introduced. Classes are conducted either on-line via Zoom or in-person at Sai Temple.
- Classes for 2023 were – Chili pilli, Beginner Accelerated, Beginner, Grade 1 Jr., Grade 2 Sr., Grade 3 Jr.
- Beginner Accelerated and Beginner are 2 new batches introduced in the year 2023. Beginner Accelerated batch is for kids who are old enough for Chili pili grade.
- The student count for Spring 23 was 17 and for Fall 23 was 28 students.
- School financials were presented. Due to availability of sufficient funds, no fee was incurred from students on Spring 23.
- The website for SAMS was updated and renewed this year.

Discussion: A member suggested to acknowledge the volunteer hours put in by the school teachers and other staff. Another suggestion was made to hire a part-time paid assistant to work on the administrative activities of the school, considering the growing number of students. A member suggested that if SAMS registers itself with Google Meet as a non-profit organization, they can get access to unlimited calls at a charge of \$8/month. This can help in significantly reducing the video conferencing expenditures.

Raju kaka acknowledged and welcomed all the wonderful suggestions and would work on the same with his team. Regarding Google Meet, since SAMS is under SAMM, the switch to a new video conferencing platform needs to be consulted and worked on with SAMM.

8. Questionnaire Session

- a. A member suggested to figure out a way to include parents in the family membership. This specially applies to families who have their parents visiting them from India for a long period.
- The Secretary made a note of the concern and will communicate the same to the upcoming BoD. The President acknowledged this as an important concern by every

SAMM 2023 Annual General Body Meeting

Meeting Minutes

- family. The By-laws have defined qualifiers for a Family Membership as Husband, Wife and 2 kids till the age of 18. A recommendation was made to send an email to the new upcoming BoD to take it further.
- b. A member wanted to know if there was any database maintained by SAMM of the elderly people or visiting parents? There was an idea to create an inclusive Aaji Aajoba group.
- The President responded that there may be hardly a few elderly membership counts registered with SAMM. The information for visiting parents is not maintained by SAMM at this moment.
 - Another member supported this idea and expressed the willingness to form such group with the known elderly individuals within the community.
- c. A member wanted to know if an email was sent regarding the elected upcoming BoD?
- The Secretary responded that email notification has not been sent yet. As per the schedule, a new BoD declaration is done during SAMM Diwali event, so an email will be sent after the Diwali event. Also, the VP Communications position is yet to be filled. Hence an official declaration is on hold.
- d. A follow-up question was if another email will be sent to fill up the VP Communications position?
- The VP Events responded that the Election Committee has been following up with the potential candidates on one-on-one basis. Mr. Viren Talim, one of the Election Committee (EC) member, acknowledged that another email communication has not been sent yet and he will work with the other EC members and current BoD to work on that.
- e. A member enquired if SAMM had any plans of doing a fundraiser or any collaborative activity with any other organization, that will help raise some funds for SAMM?
- The President responded that there are no such plans as of now as the BoD is busy planning for SA Diwali and SAMM Diwali events. Also, this being the BoD's last term, it will be a good idea for the upcoming BoD to think upon.
 - The concerned member further explained that with some additional funds, SAMM may be able to get bigger projects/programs for the community which is currently not possible because of its dependency on funds from only Membership & Donations.
 - Another member made a note that the difficulty SAMM is facing currently is not with regards to funds but with volunteers. The President and VP Events agreed on the same.
 - Another member suggested the upcoming BoD can form a sub-group of volunteers who will be interested in getting/sourcing some natak or digital programs for the community.
- f. A member suggested having the Election Process be a formalized procedure with a well-documented guideline in place for future references.

SAMM 2023 Annual General Body Meeting

Meeting Minutes

- SAMM members – Manjiri & Gopinath Akkalkotkar, volunteered to write down the Election Process SOP for SAMM’s reference. Mr. Gopinath Akkalkotkar was part of the Election Committee and has the experience of conducting the elections.
 - g. A member suggested having brainstorming sessions with the upcoming BoD to increase community engagements.
9. The President extended a vote of thanks to all members who joined the meeting.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

---- End of Meeting Minutes ----

SAMM 2023 Annual General Body Meeting Meeting Minutes

Appendix A



SAN ANTONIO MAHARASHTRA MANDAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022 AGENDA

Invitees: Board of Directors and Members of SAMM 2024

Date: Saturday, October 14th, 2023.

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: Conference Call ~ Zoom Call

Agenda Topics	
1	Welcome and opening remarks by the President
2	Attendance and Quorum count by Secretary
3	Housekeeping
4	Review of Programs and Activities by VP Events
5	Financial Statements by Treasurer
6	By-Laws Amendment voting
7	Marathi Shala
8	Closing Remarks

SAMM 2023 Annual General Body Meeting Meeting Minutes

Appendix B



Events 2023

Nov 2022	SAMM Diwali 2022
Jan 2023	SAMM Sankrant 2023
Feb 2023	Hit the Beat
Mar 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAMM Gudi Padwa 2023- SAMMchi Khau Galli Adopt a Tree Program
Apr 2023	SAMM 2023 5K Walk
May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMM cricket Maharashtra Dance Performance for US Travel Association's IPW 2023
Sep 2023	Mashaal@Mandal with BMM Ganeshotsav 2023- Panchatatva Dev & Maharashtrachi Lokadhara

Picnic in June 2023 was canceled due to low interest

Punctuality maintained

Maximum involvement and equal opportunity for participation

Various types of events and cultural programs

Volunteer hours provided

Certificates to all participants

Collaboration

- Sai Temple
- HTSA
- Garjana Dhol Tasha
- IASA

Upcoming

- Nov {
- SAMM Diwali
 - Diwali Ank
 - Diwali SA- Folk Dance, Rangoli, Barge Parade, Feta tying
 - IASA India Fest

SAMM 2023 Annual General Body Meeting

Meeting Minutes

List of Attendees:

1. Rashmi Sarlashkar
2. Mihir Choudhari
3. Nupur Karnik
4. Rasika Ghawghawe
5. Rajendra Kulkarni
6. Julina Karkhanis
7. Lukena Karkhanis
8. Laxmikant Bondre
9. Shirish Gupte
10. Kumar
11. Riddhi Masurkar
12. Nipun Choudhary
13. Jayant Sarlashkar
14. Aparna Telang
15. Sujit Telang
16. Shamika Bhagwat
17. Fauzia Dadarkar
18. Sandesh Ghawghawe
19. Manoj Sonje
20. Sourabh Phatak
21. Darshana Gupte
22. Viren Talim
23. Swapnil Bhagwat
24. Rupa Talim
25. Niranjan
26. Anand Shinde
27. Bhushan Patil
28. Manjiri Akkalkotkar
29. Vitthal Kulkarni
30. Sanyogita Apte