

**Minutes for the 14th Annual General Body Meeting of the
INDIAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
Held at Ahmedabad on the 10th of August 2019**



LIST OF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Executive Council Members

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| 1. Sujata Kohli | Hon. President |
| 2. Sridevi Rao | Hon. Vice President |
| 3. Rohit Marol | Past President |
| 4. Nidhi Madan | Hon. Secretary |
| 5. Jitendra Pawgi | Hon. Treasurer |
| 6. Neelima Soni | Fellow Member |
| 7. Prashanta Bhat | Fellow Member |
| 8. Swati Sahasrabudhe | Fellow Member |
| 9. Venkata Lakshmi | Associate Member |
| 10. Parisutha Rajan | Co-opted Member |
| 11. Shilpa Chandawarkar | Co-opted Member |
| 12. Preetanshi Singh | Co-opted Member and Bangalore Chapter Representative |
| 13. Bobby Sujansingani | Gujarat Chapter Representative |
| 14. Devayani Deshmukh Upasani | Mumbai Chapter Representative |
| 15. Jasleen Waraich | Delhi NCR Chapter Representative |
| 16. Narasimham.V.V.L. | Hyderabad Chapter Representative |

Other Members

17. Aditya Advani
18. Chhitiz Gupta
19. Deepa Pawan Maheshwari
20. Dhara Shah
21. Divya Sharma
22. Dixit Narola
23. Harish Vangara
24. Harsh Goel
25. Hrishikesh Phadke
26. Jadon Shailendra
27. Janki G
28. Madhup Mazumder
29. Minesh Parikh
30. Naveen Panugati
31. Priyesh Shah
32. Ravi Kumar
33. Sachin Ubbarda
34. Sandip Patil
35. Shishir Rawal
36. Shruti Humane
37. Sonu Kumar
38. Subhagya Atale

INDIAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Registered under Indian Societies Act 1860 Sec. 21 No.: **Guj2557** & Bombay Trust Act 1950 Section 29 No.: **F9417**

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1. To approve the minutes of the last AGM held on the 8th of September 2019

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved by all present and accepted.

2. To approve and adopt the Audited Annual Accounts as approved by the Executive Council for the year ended 31-03-2019

The auditor Rajnikant Trivedi from Vibhakar Trivedi & Co. presented the audited accounts of the Society to all members present and following are the salient points of the same:

ISOLA is in a healthy financial position and presently has surplus funds of approximately 46.9 lakhs and a corpus of close to 2 crores. Membership receipts have increased to 15.05 lakhs from 9.8 lakhs from the previous financial year. Expenses of rent has gone up and biennial conferences have reduced income.

ISOLA has invested in mutual funds that will be evaluated next year to decide whether we stay invested or not. Rajnikant Trivedi had said that we will evaluate our options after 3 years- that period ends next year. These are also the ones permitted by the government for charitable trusts.

He informed that there was a delay in filing TDS in the 1st quarter, for which the penalty would be paid by the auditors.

After presentation by the auditor, the audited accounts were accepted and approved by all present.

3. To re-appoint the auditor for the current financial year.

This was unanimously approved by all present and Vibhakar Trivedi & Co. will be reappointed for the current financial year.

4. To adopt the Annual Report of the Society for the year ended 31-03-2019

The Honorary Secretary read out the annual report of the Society and it was accepted by all present. The Secretary's report is a part of the minutes of this meeting for future record and reference.

5. To briefly showcase video presentations by the Local Chapters

Each of the eight chapters (Bangalore, Delhi NCR, Gujarat, Hyderabad, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mumbai and TN & Pondicherry) had prepared videos of their chapter activities in the past years, and upcoming plans. These are uploaded on the ISOLA website. The diversity of initiatives, activities, engagements and events held across the country were lauded and opportunities to share amongst chapters discussed.

6. To appraise members of the Education Board restructuring, constitution and direction

Education Board convenor Swati Sahasrabudhe presented the summary of EB activities. Education Board documentation for eligibility of Post Graduate Institutions teaching Landscape Architecture have been updated and is available on the website. There are now eight institutions recognized by ISOLA. The Education board will work hand in hand with the Resource Centre in setting up resource system which can be accessible for members.

The Education Board will set up an independent constitution, with three core groups – a Steering Committee, that will act as a bridge, the Advisory Circle, with senior members and possibly education specialists from outside ISOLA, and the Working Group, with members from each recognized institution, chapter and other interested or invited participants.



The Education board will also focus on strengthening connections with IFLA. Education Board Chairperson Prashanta Bhat is collaborating with Dr. Mike Barthelmeh, IFLA APR Secretary to conduct a workshop with the EB to learn from their experience in accrediting LA programs in Indonesia. The EB will also look in to creating mentoring programs for new institutes.

7. To appraise members of the EC agenda for the next two years-

The President presented an overview of EC focus for next two years. The key agenda items are an independent Education Board, Professional Practice (PP) group to reflect on professional contributions to society, outreach and advocacy and profession specific activities, and more integrated chapter coordination efforts through participation across different working groups and a common ISOLA calendar.

ISOLA will focus on imparting guidance for institutions through Education board. EB will also look into the aspect of increasing the student memberships & the participation of student fraternity.

To guide the young professionals in to LA practice, Professional Practice (PP) group has been formed and Mr. Rohit Marol & Mr. Sandip Patil are working on completing the Code of Conduct & other guidelines for LA practice. The Code of Conduct document circulated before the AGM, drafted by Rohit Marol and Rohini Venkataswami was discussed in the afternoon session following the AGM. Rohit informed members that it is in two parts –Code of Conduct and Scale of Charges. The latter has not moved forward due to little response. Hopefully more inputs will be received from the wider membership- what is the work, quantum of work, time and fee charged? Tier 1 and 2 cities costs very different. Senior members have been consulted in the past, but more inputs are required. This will be an important document for young practitioners and also as a reference for all.

Chapter coordinators will come up with annual calendars and submit the same. All Chapter calendars will be synchronized to one which will give outlook on all events with all chapters. Chapter events to have a connecting thread that would build up to the conference keeping in mind the topic/theme and taking advantage of the two year gap to build up substantive content.

Resource Centre will work towards setting up a database of resource people, information for LA practice and research.

EC has devised strategies for increasing social media follow up and gain more visibility. Apart from contributing to the society, raising the voice of concern against detrimental actions will also bring focus to LA Profession. Rajnikant Trivedi highlighted that it is important to understand the implications of taking a contrarian view, and others suggested all inputs may be given in a constructive way.

8. To update members on the next Annual Conference 2021 to be held at Hyderabad

Naveen Panugati, conference convenor and Harish Vangara introduced the city of Hyderabad, the conference committee structure and potential themes for the 2021 conference. Hyderabad Chapter team presented ideas for the theme of the conference focusing on topics related specific to Hyderabad as a city and unique issues it deals with. The theme is not yet been finalized. Chapter to internally discuss and decide the same.

9. Discussions

Sridevi Rao also put forth her ideas on strengthening of LA Profession by contributing to the society. Any objections raised against unethical ecological practices, the legal frame work of all activities need to be documented as it becomes point of reference for such initiatives in the future.

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In public projects that are open to suggestions & public scrutiny, LA profession can represent the public and same can be documented as well.

Touching upon the aspect which Sridevi Rao mentioned, President put forth that we need to focus on our social responsibility & contribute to the community by identifying area of concern in city level. That would be a great way to make a difference & establish “Value of the Profession”. President touched upon examples from DDA & NDFC and mentioned that we need to contribute to value addition to make things from good to better.

Harsh Goel suggested a firm listing similar to those in international organizations like ASLA and highlighting urban transformation projects, by project type to raise awareness of our role.

Aditya Advani highlighted the comradery of the society and the need for more social interactions as a community.

Naveen Panugati brought up the need to explain the value of ISOLA to younger members. This issue comes up repeatedly, particularly in the newer chapters. While some commented that younger members do not come forward, Hrishikesh Phadke described Mumbai chapter’s plans to have different events focused on different age groups. Bobby Sujansingani shared Gujarat chapter’s initiative to expose architectural students to the profession through college events where 3-6 professionals talk about their projects.

Jasleen Waraich and Minesh Parikh raised the concerns of quality of students, smaller firms and their concerns and issues related to salaries and fees. The need to address practice based issues was discussed with more resolution expected through the efforts of the PP group in the following years.

10. Brainstorming Session (Post AGM)

Discussion on Code of conduct & Ethics led by Mr. Rohit Marol. Code presented and discussed in depth by all members present. The same will be shared with all ISOLA members for further ideas and comments along with a fee survey. Professional Practice group members (members from each chapter) put forward the ideas they have devised for their own regions and how they plan to take it forward.

Mr. Sandip Patil briefly presented “Park People Project”. Gujarat chapter (7 practices) led this project and worked towards upliftment of public spaces in the city of Ahmedabad. A model developed that can be tried in other cities as well.

The meeting ended with ISOLA President thanking all members for attending.

Minutes of the Meeting by:

Nidhi Madan

Honorary Secretary, ISOLA

With

Preetanshi Singh and Venkata Lakshmi V.