

MINUTES OF THE 9th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
INDIAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS  
held on 13th September 2014 at Ahmedabad



**INDIAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS  
ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING**

**MINUTES of the 9th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**DATE : 13.09.2014 at Auditorium, IIT Gandhinagar, VGEC Chandkheda, Ahmedabad**

**TIME : 9.30 am**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Fellows**

- 1 Mr. Sachin Jain (SJ), Honorary President
- 2 Mr. Yogesh Kapoor (YK), Honorary Vice-President
- 3 Ms. Shilpa Chandawarkar (SC), Honorary Secretary
- 4 Mr. Ashish Patankar (AP), Honorary Treasurer
- 5 Ms. Savita Punde (SP)
- 6 Mr. Rohit Marol (RM), Past President
- 7 Mr. Mangesh Prabhugaonkar (MP)

**Associates**

- 8 Mr. Gopal Bajaj (GB)
- 9 Mr. Atul Katariya (AK)
- 10 Ms. Vandana Labba (VL)

**Chapter Representatives**

- 11 Mr. Minesh Parikh (MPK), Chapter representative from Delhi

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT (with prior leave of absence)**

Arjun Sharma, Chapter Representative from Mumbai

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT (without prior leave of absence)**

**EC Members**

Sandip Patil (Co-opted Associate Member)

**Chapter Representatives**

Mr. Prasad G. (PG), Chapter representative from Bangalore

Prof. Prabhakar Bhagwat, Chapter representative from Gujarat

**GENERAL MEMBERS PRESENT**

- 12 Aditya Advani
- 13 Harsh Goel
- 14 Madhup Mazumdar
- 15 Mahafuj Ali
- 16 Mahesh Paliwal
- 17 Mohammed Shaheer
- 18 Neelima Soni
- 19 Nidhi Madan
- 20 Nupur Prothi Khanna
- 21 Pournima Kshirsagar Thote
- 22 Shweta Agarwal
- 23 Sridevi Rao
- 24 Sujata Kohli
- 25 Urmila Rajadhyaksha

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	<b>SPECIAL INVITEES</b>
26	Rajnikant Trivedi (Auditor, Vibhakar Trivedi & Co.)
27	Sudhir Vohra (Invited Speaker)

S.No.	ITEM
	<p>The meeting which was scheduled to begin at 9:30 am was delayed by half an hour due to lack of quorum. The meeting finally began at 10:00 am with the attendance of all members as listed above.</p> <p>Sachin Jain, President ISOLA chaired the meeting and welcomed all members present.</p>
1	<p><b>To approve the minutes of the last AGM held on 31.08.2013</b></p> <p>Shilpa Chandawarkar, Honorary Secretary, ISOLA, placed the minutes of the 8th AGM of ISOLA on record and sought approval of all members present. The minutes of the meeting were accepted and approved unanimously.</p>
2	<p><b>To approve and adopt the Annual Audited Accounts as approved by the Executive Council for the year ended 31.03.2014</b></p> <p>Mr.Rajnikant Trivedi, the Auditor representing Ms.Vibhakar J.Trivedi &amp; Co., presented the summary of the annual accounts to all members present. He explained that the accounts were a consolidated statement of all accounts including those of the Delhi, Mumbai and Gujarat chapters, the Delhi, Bhopal and Ahmedabad LOCs and the Central ISOLA office.</p> <p>Some of the salient points that Mr.Rajnikant Trivedi mentioned were as follows:</p> <p>a. He advised the members that all excess funds (barring budgeted expenses for 3 months) should be put in fixed deposits so that these funds generate some much needed income for the Society</p> <p>b. He also said that the Government permits Trusts and Societies to invest their funds in certain debt-based mutual funds, the income from which would not be taxable. Minesh Parikh and Sachin Jain asked him to give the details of these mutual funds and ISOLA and its Chapters would consider investing some money into these funds.</p> <p>c. Rajnikant Trivedi also informed the General Body that in the financial recommendations he had given to the EC, he had recommended that 20% of the total donorship amount received in the annual conference and chapter events should be given to the Centre instead of 50% of the surplus. This would ensure a definite income to the Centre which was currently struggling to meet monthly office expenses. Minesh Parikh and Sujata Kohli agreed and even suggested that a percentage of the income generated from Chapter fixed deposits should go to the Centre as well since the Centre had to incur office-running expenses which the Chapters did not have to.</p> <p>d. Ashish Patankar and Sachin Jain requested Rajnikant Trivedi to prepare a set of guidelines for Chapter funds and investments and their contribution to the Centre and all the Chapters would be informed accordingly.</p> <p>e. When Minesh Parikh sought to know the status of any pending accounts-related issues, Rajnikant Trivedi informed him of the ongoing scrutiny for the year 2011-12 and said that the same would be difficult to resolve as the previous auditors had not given the soft copy of the accounts despite repeated reminders. It was resolved to send a last reminder to the CA and in the event of no response, a complaint would be made to the ICAI.</p> <p>Mr. Rajnikant Trivedi then presented the accounts to all members for approval and the same were approved by all.</p>

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<b>3</b>	<p><b>To adopt the Annual Report of the Society for the year ended 31.03.2014</b></p> <p>Shilpa Chandawarkar, the Honorary Secretary presented the Annual Report of the Society to the attending members. (Report attached to this MOM)</p> <p>The report elaborated the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of ISOLA Executive Council and Chapter Executive Committees</li> <li>Status of ISOLA Accounts</li> <li>Status of ISOLA Membership database and website</li> <li>Professional issues that need to be addressed by ISOLA</li> <li>Report on the functioning of the various chapters/committees within ISOLA</li> <li>Forthcoming events of the Society</li> </ol> <p>On the issue of memberships, Nupur Prothi Khanna suggested that ISOLA should offer Institutional memberships to educational institutions and ISOLA would stand to greatly gain by the tie-up. She cited the example of SPA Bhopal being an institutional member of ICOMOS and SPA Bhopal hosting and organising their events for them. The EC said they would discuss the same and see if this category of membership can be introduced within the framework of the Society's byelaws.</p> <p>Rajnikant Trivedi also confirmed that the Society could offer membership to firms (which is done in the case of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India) where the proprietor/principal is a member of ISOLA. Sudhir Vohra, the guest speaker for the day, also confirmed that there was no legal problem in offering such membership/registration to firms. The EC shall place this on their next meeting agenda as well.</p> <p>Prof. Shaheer suggested that firms should insist that their employees (qualified landscape architects) should mandatorily be members of ISOLA. This would indicate a commitment towards one's profession. He also said that only those students who are members of ISOLA during their study tenure should be allowed to register for the Students Category ISOLA Awards. Yogesh Kapoor said that this rule would be followed from the next cycle of awards.</p> <p>The Annual Report of the Society was then approved and accepted by all.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>To reappoint the auditor Ms.Vibhakar J.Trivedi &amp; Co.for the current financial year</b></p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to reappoint the auditor Ms.Vibhakar J.Trivedi &amp; Co. for the current financial year</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>To approve the increase in annual subscription fees for membership to ISOLA with immediate effect.</b></p> <p>Given the view that there has been no increase in the fees since inception of the Society and that the running costs of the Society are increasing, it was unanimously decided that the membership subscription fees need to be increased substantially. Minesh Parikh said that one needs to work out the revised fees considering a 3 to 5-year timeline factoring in the inflation and increasing costs of operation. Prof. Shaheer also said that eligible members should understand the professional worth of ISOLA's membership and be willing to pay the revised amounts.</p> <p>The attending members felt that the suggested increase in fees (Student category Rs.400, Graduate category Rs.800, Associate category Rs.1200 and Fellow category Rs.2000) was not adequate and it needs to be increased further. This decision would be taken by the EC at the earliest.</p> <p>The General Body authorised the EC to decide on the revised subscription fees and bring it into effect immediately.</p> <p>On the advice of auditor Rajnikant Trivedi, it was also decided that ISOLA shall accept subscription fees for a maximum of 3 years at one time, without any discount in the total amount.</p>

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<b>6</b>	<p><b>To approve the proposed change in sharing of all donations received by LOCs and Chapters: 20% of the gross receipts (and NOT 50% of the surplus) of all donations received for the annual conference as well as Chapter events shall be given to the Centre</b></p> <p>This was unanimously approved by all and would be put into effect from the next Conference scheduled to be held in Pune in February 2015. The members from Pune (Vandana Labba and Atul Katariya) also had a meeting with Rajnikant Trivedi to understand the accounting procedures and norms to be followed by the LOC</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>To update the members about the status of filing of byelaws with the Charity Commissioner's office</b></p> <p>Rohit Marol informed the attending members that as per the directives given by the Charity Commissioner's office, a complete dossier of the byelaws along with details of all previous Executive Council members had been submitted for approval. However, the submittals were not accepted citing reasons of incorrect formats. We are now seeking legal aid for understanding the lacunae in our submittals. We will once again seek the co-operation of previous EC members for getting declaration letters and affidavits from them and are hopeful that with a guided approach, we will get the Society's byelaws registered at the earliest.</p> <p>Rohit Marol also informed all that the lawyer had clarified that there was no legal requirement to have the EC meetings or AGM in Gujarat and it could be held anywhere within the country.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>To announce the schedule of forthcoming events in the current year (ISOLA Awards 2014, Annual Conference 2015).</b></p> <p>The fourth cycle of the ISOLA Awards was recently announced via email to all members. The Honorary Secretary requested all members to enthusiastically participate in the Awards. She then requested Associate EC member Vandana Labba from Pune to provide the details of the forthcoming conference to all members present.</p> <p>Vandana Labba informed all present that the next annual conference would be held on the 20th and 21st of February 2015 at Pune. The details would be shortly forwarded to all members.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>To transact any other business with the permission of the Chair</b> <b>Performance and Status of Local Chapters (Bengaluru and Mumbai)</b></p> <p>This point was brought while discussing the financial status of ISOLA and was subsequently discussed with the permission of the Chair.</p> <p>Rohit Marol reported that the Bengaluru chapter had been inactive for a long while and no amount of efforts seemed to generate interest in the local members. However, he was hopeful that the commitment to host the 2016 conference in Bengaluru would bring the members together and positively influence the activities of the Chapter.</p> <p>In case of the Mumbai chapter, member Urmila Rajadhyaksha reported that there a reluctance on part of the current Executive Committee to work towards building the chapter and there was no one else willing to take up responsibility of the same. Also, the fact that Mumbai chapter was holding considerable funds (approximately 6 lakhs) without purposefully utilising them nor investing the same in fixed deposits, was an issue. It was decided to communicate to the Mumbai EC that they should serve out their term to the best of their abilities and work towards strengthening the cause of ISOLA. They would also be directed to invest the excess funds in fixed deposits as advised by the auditor.</p>
	<p>The President then called the meeting to a close and thanked all those present for making the time and effort to attend the same.</p>

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	<p>The AGM was followed by an interactive session with Architect Sudhir Vohra who spoke about the reasons and means to achieve a 'Status of Recognised Profession' for Landscape Architects in India. This was followed by a meeting of members of the ISOLA Education Board.</p> <p><i>Minutes prepared by:</i> <i>Shilpa Chandawarkar</i> <i>Honorary Secretary, ISOLA</i></p>
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