

Mid America Bengali Association
General Body Meeting Agenda
July 19, 2009, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Holiday Inn Gwinnett Center – Atlanta, GA

Attendance: Mihir Choudhuri, Subhankar Mukhopadhyay, Sonia Choudhuri, Manik Paul, Parimal Bhattacharya, Soma Mukhopadhyay, Apala Bandyopadhyay, Nirranjan Talukdar, Gaurango Banik, Pamela Mukerji, Mridul Paul (BAGA), Nirranjan Saha, Tultul Nayyar, Salil Das, Abhijit Basu, Mithun Kar, Sumita Chakraborty, Saumen Ghosh, Jayashri Dasgupta, Biswajit Dasgupta, Ashim Dutta, Nihar Saha, Ratan Roy, Bhabendra Putatunda, Rina Paul Saha, Mani Roy, Partha Mukhopadhyay, Raktim Sen, Ashim Ghosh, Anindya Biswas, Subir Paul, Rajarshi Bhattacharyya, Subir Paul, Anindya Biswas, Partha Mukhopadhyay, Surojit Bandyopadhyay

Chariperson: Rajarshi Bhattacharya

Meeting Scribe: Surojit Bandyopadhyay

Agenda:

1. Introduction
2. Approval of General Body Meeting minutes – Anindya Biswas
3. President's Report – State of the Association – Raktim Sen
4. Treasurer's Report – Subhashish Sathpathy
5. Bangamela 2009 update – BM2009 Committee Representative
6. Bangamela 2010 update – Raktim Sen, Subir Paul
7. Election of Executive Committee at the end of 2009 – Raktim Sen
8. Misc Items

Mihir Choudhuri had proposed the following items:

- a. Publish MABA Member directory on MABA website
- b. Publish MABA GBM and MABA EC/BOD meeting within 30 days to all MABA members.
- c. MABA guideline and database update

Minutes:

1. Introduction

2. Approval of General Body Meeting minutes – Anindya Biswas

- Held at Columbus, OH on Sunday July 20, 2008
 - Anindya provided a brief update.
 - Manik Paul proposed it and Biswajit Dasgupta seconded it. It was passed without any objections.

- Held by teleconference on Sunday June 14 2009
 - Subhankar Mukhopadhyay had raised several questions
 - ✓ Number of MABA member attendees. ***There was no Quorum Call. Raktim Sen provided an answer of 25.***
 - ✓ Number of MABA member attendees from Nashville.
 - ✓ Why the next meeting was in hurry? MABA should take time to arrange meetings so everybody can plan and attend.
 - Raktim Sen responded - There was less than 3 weeks of time to accomplish many things before Bangamela 2009. EC was trying to accomplish many tasks almost every week. All the other agenda items of EC were put in the back-**burner**.
 - June 21st June meeting was not the right reflection of Nashville or BAGN.
 - Mihir Choudhuri raised the same concern as why other organizations are not organizing BM2010.
 - ✓ Anindya Biswas said EC approached many organizations.
 - Saumen Ghosh responded - Let's proceed in the interest of time.
 - Parimal Bhattacharya proposed and was seconded by Gaurango Banik
 - The minute was passed without any objection.

3. President's Report – State of the Association – Raktim Sen

North Carolina Bengali Association (NCBA) initially was scheduled to host BM2011. NABC will be held in Baltimore in 2011. Since the distance between Baltimore and North Carolina are too close, NCBA has decided to postpone hosting Bangamela till 2012. Mr Ratan Roy (President of NCBA) will send a LOI for BM2012.

There some questions regarding BM2010:

- If BM2010 is held during July 4th there maybe some scheduling conflict.
 - ✓ Salil Das: There is a Rathajatra on 4th of July in Nashville.
 - ✓ Raktim Sen replied by saying we have to try to mitigate that.
 - ✓ Nihar Saha mentioned, there will be very few interested to go to Rathajatra.
- **We should keep BangaMela to Bengalis. No Orissa items to attract Orissa population.**
- Rajarshi Bhattacharya had requested to propose theme.
- Manik Paul requested MABA to formally invite BAGN to organize Bangamela 2010.

Raktim Sen also mentioned, there will be a website dedicated to Vidyasagar. As far as Essay competition, he added that we should try to educate our second generation.

Pamela Mukerji mentioned that we should promote Bengali language.

Raktim Sen replied that we have already started some initiative like Barna parichay in website.

4. Treasurer's Report – Subhashish Sathpathy

- Account for 2008 and Budget for 2009
- Saumen Ghosh asked what is the Royalty formula for Bangamela?
- Rajarshi Bhattacharyya replied \$1 per attendee.
- Niranjana Talukdar asked for the estimated registrations for BM2010. Intial estimate was 600.
- Raktim Sen said this is projected and send whatever are final registrants.

5. Bangamela 2009 update – BM2009 Committee Representative

- Raktim Sen thanked Bangamela 2009 organizing committee.
- Niranjana Talukdar provided an update: Registrations 747. Expense should be less than the income. **Balance will go to BAGA.**
- Mridul Paul: Initially we had proposed 600 and there were more registrants. Since liability is on us. He also mentioned that BAGN had sponsored Bhumi.

There

was a plan for a show in Nashville. Bhumi was given 2 choices either Nashville or Bangamela.

- **Rajarshi Bhattacharyya: We have to address this concern.**
- **Soumen Ghosh: Put in on the website.**
- **There cannot be any program within 500 miles from the venue of Bangamela.**
- **Soma Mukhopadhyay: We should draft a letter stating that this topic has nothing to do with MABA.**

6. Bangamela 2010 update – Raktim Sen, Subir Paul

Subir Paul provided a brief update.

- Mihir Choudhuri asked why was BAGN not given a formal invitation.
 - ✓ Subir Paul replied that he had reached out to BAGN president (Sujit Das) and Sujit Das said BAGN cannot support or host Bangamela. But privately we all can support.
 - ✓ Sujit Das did not speak as a BAGN president.
 - ✓ Sujit Das also offered to host a tea to discuss it.

- Subhankar Mukhopadhyay: Can MABA send a letter now?
 - ✓ **Raktim Sen replied that he has sent a letter to the president of BAGN prior to June 19th meeting in Nashville. There has been no response yet Sujit Das concerning BAGN extending support for BM2010.**
 - ✓ Salil Das mentioned since BAGN did not accepted organizing Bangamela why are we discussing this.
 - ✓ Sumita Chakraborty asked to resend the letter. BAGN will respond.
 - ✓ Raktim Sen asked to get the address of Sujit Das and he will send another letter.

- Soumen Ghosh: Would like to know the organizing committee for Bangamela 2010 and proposed that MABA EC provide a structure.
 - ✓ Rakim Sen: 9 BOD cannot do Bangamela. Everybody in the community will be looked at and a Bangamela 2010 committee will be formed. Fiduciary responsibility is with MABA. So, EC will work on forming the committee.
 - ✓ Subir Paul: We need to involve people in such a way that people feel they are involved and interested. This is a new model for MABA. We have to formulate a way to do it.

- Reach out to Rathyatra committee and check if they can change the dates.
- Subhankar Mukhopadhyay: Keep a contact person who is known to Nashville.
 - ✓ Subhashish Satpathy is the EC contact in Nashville.
 - ✓ Rajarshi Bhattacharyya: We are trying to do a process improvement.

7. Election of Executive Committee at the end of 2009 – Raktim Sen

8. Misc Items

Mihir Choudhuri had proposed the following items:

- Publish MABA Member directory on MABA website
Ashim Ghosh: We cannot publish the list by law without the consent of the members.

- Publish MABA GBM and MABA EC/BOD meeting within 30 days to all MABA members.
Mihir Choudhuri: We don't come to know about the minutes sooner.

- MABA guideline and database update
 - ✓ Rajarshi Bhattacharyya: We made some progress but not to the extent that a revised guideline can be published now. Hopefully by end of this year.
 - ✓ Raktim Sen: Did not get any update from previous database committee. We have to formulate another committee and start the work.

Meeting Started: 9:15 AM

Meeting Ended: 11:15 AM
