

Annual General Body Meeting  
Rajdhani Mandir Chantilly, Virginia  
Sunday December 11, 2022  
Time: 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
Meeting Minutes

Note:

Every attempt has been made to take accurate notes for preparing these meeting minutes. We believe that most of the important points made by the members during the General-body meeting and all the resolutions passed by the members have been documented. If after a careful review, any of you point out a need for corrections, your suggestions will be addressed if received before December 31, 2022.

AGENDA

- Meeting Begins at 4 PM
- Secretary Calls for Quorum
- Invocation Song
- Elections
  - Election Committee Presents the Rules and Regulations for the election
  - Election Committee Presents the candidates
  - Each Presidential candidate gets 2 minutes to talk
  - Voting begins (5 PM - 7 PM)
  - Counting begins after 7 PM
- Presentations
  - Year 2022 President's presentation
  - Year 2022 KYC Presentation
  - Year 2022 Treasurer Presentation
  - Year 2022 BOT Presentation
- Golden Jubilee Celebrations
  - SC Committee Presentation
  - SC Treasurer Presentation
- Question and Answers
- Resolutions: Moderator Sri. Mysore Nataraj
  - General Body Discussions (60 Minutes)
  - Light Dinner
- Election Results
- KEC 2023 Speech

- Vote of thanks

Election Officers: Puttaraju, Suma Muralidhar, Mahesh Mahadev

Presenters: Satish Belagutti, Parathima Murthy, Naga Nandivelugu, Mohan Venkobdas, Rajashekar Doddanna, Sudhakar Saraswathipura and SC team

Moderator: Sri. Mysore Nataraja

Minutes Prepared by: Dr. Rohini Banavar, Joint Secretary KEC 2022

Attendees: 121 Kaveri members

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by the secretary Sri Sudharshana Bhakatavathsala after verifying that a quorum was present. He welcomed all the members and talked about the golden jubilee celebrations success. Those in attendance were the voting members of Kaveri Kannada Association and Board of Trustees. Meeting began with an invocation song. Ms. Shivani Row was invited to sing the invocation song.

### Annual Elections to form Kaveri Executive Committee for the year 2019

The election committee members along with KEC members volunteered to help in conducting the elections. The election committee members included:

- a) Sri. Puttaraju, past Vice President Kaveri Executive Committee
- b) Smt. Suma Muralidhar, past President Kaveri Executive Committee
- c) Sri. Mahesh Mahadeva, past President Kaveri Executive Committee

Sri. Mahesh Mahadeva laid out the election rules and regulations according to the Kaveri Constitution and bylaws. Voting eligibility was clarified by the election committee. Individual members were eligible for one vote, family members were eligible for two votes, and life members were also eligible for two votes and life members' children over 18 years of age were not eligible to vote. The elections were conducted for the President position only. Final nomination list received were as follows:

Office Bearer Positions:

President: Rohini Kumar and Kumar Ningashetty (Election for this position only)

Vice President: Sudharshana Bhaktavatsala and ~~Nitish Sridhara Murthy~~ (withdrew prior to AGM)

Secretary: Rohini Banavar

Joint Secretary: Jyothi Mandya

Treasurer: Mohan Venkobdas

Joint Treasurer: Srikanta Rao

Executive Members:

1. Bindu Gururaj
2. Kiran Chinivar
3. Prathima Murthy
4. Raj Davanagere
5. Soumya Nagashankar

## 6. V James Dante

KYC coordinator:  
Sowmya Vinay  
1 Position Vacant

Auditor:  
1 Position Vacant

Both Presidential candidates were invited to speak to the audience prior to the elections.

**Smt. Rohini Kumar** spoke first and said her association with Kaveri has been since 2008 through her husband. “2015 is when I was actively involved and have been with various committees in various positions. My vision is to bring the community together and encourage local talent that did so well in the 50th year. I want to bring a sports committee into effect.”

**Sri. Kumar Ningashetty** said ‘My slogan is MEKE make every Kaveri Kannadiga excited. Excitement is important for any community or people to do well. My vision is to encourage local talent and not just international talents. My vision is to lay the foundation for that. We think Kaveri is just dance and singing but we should go beyond that. I have been in Kaveri since 1998 since I was a bachelor. I have been in the committee for 6 to 7 years and played a functional role. I have not been an office bearer, but Kaveri is not a condo association but a cultural association. My strengths are creativity, integrity and leadership. Nitish has withdrawn even though we were not a team. I don’t believe in only team members going up the ladder.’

After the candidate’s speech, the election committee began the voting process and wished both the candidates best of luck.

### 2022 Kaveri Executive Committee (KEC) Summary Report

Satish, President KEC 2022 started stating that the Golden Jubilee year was a great success. Even though the focus was towards the golden jubilee for most of the year, KEC conducted many of the other programs throughout the year that were also well received. Satish provided a summary report of all the key events of 2022.

Mahesh Mahadeva, the 2023 election committee member interrupted the president’s presentation and said there is breaking news and announced that, Sri. Kumar Ningashetty has decided to withdraw his nomination as does not want to continue with the elections. Election committee decided to stop the election and the voting stopped. President continued with his presentation and the items highlighted were as follows:

- Bangalore Voice Radio Show
- Sankranthi/Kaveri Idol 2022
- Ugadi

- Mother's Day/Hiking
- Earth Day
- Mental Health Session
- Picnic - 5k Run/Walk
- Celebrating Spring Festivities with Indian American Community at India House
- Father's Day/ Kaveri Kitchen
- Ganesha Festival
- Golden Jubilee Celebrations
- Volunteer Appreciation Day
- Kaveri Indoor Games
- Celebrate Deepavali
- Deepavali & Rajyothsava
- Sewa Diwali Food Drive
- Python Course

Following the KEC Summary report, Smt. Prathima and Sri. Naga Nandivegulu provided an update of the KYC activities. Following important items were highlighted.

1. Bake Sale during Ugadi Festival
2. Golden Jubilee involvement by KYC members
3. Earth Day
4. Chess, Carrom Tournament
5. Innovative Initiatives
  - a. Python Classes
  - b. Mental Health Session

#### 2022 Kaveri Executive Committee Treasurer's Report

Sri. Mohan Venkobdas, Treasurer presented the KEC 2022 financial summary interim report as of December 10, 2022. The KEC 2022 financial summary included the opening balance, income, expenses, donation income, disbursements and pending disbursements, and the expected closing balance for the year ending December 31st, 2022. The balance sheets for Kaveri Youth Committee (KYC), Kaveri Kannada Kaliyon (KKK), DC Kitchen, Spandana Kaveri 50<sup>th</sup> accounts and BOT investment accounts were also presented. For details, please refer to the attached presentation. Sri. Mohan Venkobdas provided the following summary:

- Recorded most of the transactions using Square to effectively leverage the SquareUp ledger. Need to use it for check and cash transactions.
- Square transactions about 16.5K. Square transaction fees \$534
- Introduced QR-Code to purchase the events tickets in advance.
- Sent members welcome emails in Kannada and English.
- Filed the Maryland non-profit tax returns on time.
- Contacted the Insurance to purchase to include the 50th year liabilities.
- Prepared half yearly account details for the Audit.

Mohan thanked Sri. Sudhir Sharma for serving as an auditor for 2022. Sanjay Rao suggested selecting / announcing the auditor at the beginning of the year instead of appointing at the last minute. Satish and Mohan confirmed that the auditor was appointed earlier in the year, but it was not announced.

Satish spoke about – Improvements and lessons learnt during 2022. Suggestions for the upcoming committee included real-time RSVP, and collecting fees prior to the event. Lastly, he expressed his thanks to the KEC committee, program coordinators, youth committee, sponsors, and volunteers. Please see the attached presentation file for additional details.

Felicitations were offered to Sri. Sudhir Sharma by Sri. Doddanna Rajashekar for serving as an auditor for KEC and 50<sup>th</sup> year accounts and to Sri. Srivatsa Joshi by Satish for his contributions in literary committee, for writing an article in Kannada Magazine “Tharanga” and creating golden jubilee Kannada puzzle for the “Padadumbi” tournament.

Election committee introduced the newly unanimously selected KEC 2023. Congratulations to the Kaveri Executive Committee 2023:

Office Bearer Positions:

President: Rohini Kumar

Vice President: Sudharshana Bhaktavatsala

Secretary: Rohini Banavar

Joint Secretary: Jyothi Mandya

Treasurer: Mohan Venkobdas

Joint Treasurer: Srikanta Rao

Executive Members:

1. Bindu Gururaj

2. Kiran Chinivar

3. Prathima Murthy

4. Raj Davanagere

5. Soumya Nagashankar

6. V James Dante

KYC coordinator:

Sowmya Vinay

1 Position Vacant

Auditor:

1 Position Vacant

Smt. Rohini Kumar and Sri Sudharshan spoke to the audience.

### Board of Trustees (BOT) Report

Sri. Doddanna Rajashekar, BOT chair presented the BOT report. He invited Suma Muralidhar, Girish Vasudeva, Meena Rao, Satish Belagutti and Mahesh Mahadeva on the stage. He thanked all the members for allowing the BOT members to work hard during 2022. He spoke about nominations for 2023 who are Sri. Madesh Basavaraju and Smt. Savitha Rao. Satish announced that, Sri. Doddanna Rajashekar and Sri. Girish Vasudeva will end their services as BOT members. The two new BOT members will be inducted during 2023. Sri. Girish Vasudeva ended his term based on the lottery system.

Sri. Sanjay Rao questioned BOT regarding the lottery system. He said, only one person could have picked instead of two BOT members.

Sri. Doddanna Rajashekar stated that this decision of the lottery system was discussed during 2019. All three BOT members who were inducted at that time knew about this decision.

Sri. Vinod asked why people overstayed and Sanjay said it was an old system and people were serving more than three years and overstayed. Sri. Mysore Nataraj said there is no objection from the person leaving and we should not stretch this. Going forward, this won't be an issue, and everyone will be serving a maximum of three years.

Sri. Sanjay Rao also said that 'we did not receive an email naming the election officers to the community and elections are run by KEC and withdrawal email was sent by president. Mahesh, election committee member responded saying that the email communication can only be sent by the president and not by election officers. People may know about it from candidates who withdrew or from friends.

Sri. Mysore Nataraj came and said the current KEC should be dissolved before doing any elections according to the guidelines. Nataraj also said that we should try to avoid elections and guidelines should be developed to keep the community together. Mediation is the BOTs responsibility.

Sri. Doddanna said he also spoke to the candidates about this year's nominations.

Sri Mysore Nataraj said nobody should be dejected and everyone will get a chance. It is better to go step by step and organization will have a healthy flow. If you can set aside a few years and work in the committee, it will help you be a good leader. Leadership means a big sacrifice for the person and the family as the whole family will work the whole year. Nobody has been stopped from being the Kaveri President. Don't think everyone doesn't get a chance. Teamwork should be the key word and we should have diversity and representation from men, women, all ages and geographic areas.

Sri. Doddanna added we have followed rules and have not broken any. We spoke to all candidates and addressed everything based on the constitution.

Sri. Ravii Dankanikote came and stated 'Doddanna leadership alli no rules will be broken.'

### Steering Committee Report

Sri. Sudhakar Saraswathipura provided a financial report for the Kaveri Golden Jubilee celebrations. Here is the summary:

Total Funds raised - \$564,153

Expenses - \$504,980

Balance/ Surplus - \$59,173 .51

Total funds received from BOT - \$72,500

He spoke about the funds received and expenses by various categories. He thanked all the volunteers involved with the Golden Jubilee accounts:

Kaveri Auditor: Smt. Vimala Sidda Lingaiah, Sri. RK Bhat, Sri. Sudhir Sharma and Sri. Mohan Venkobdas. Transaction reviewers: Smt. Mythri, Smt. Sharmila, Sri. Krishna Bappanad, Sri. Haridas

Sri. Prakash Bhat wanted to know more about the \$30000 received from the Boston team. Sanjay Rao clarified his question. Vijay Prakash had performed in Boston and Chicago in which Kaveri paid all expenses. Kaveri was part of a charity raised by Boston Kannada Sangha. Sudhakar handed over the accounts and checks to KEC treasurer.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The GB reconvened to discuss the proposed resolutions submitted by the members. Sri Mysore Nataraja moderated the executive session

Before discussing the proposed resolutions submitted by the members, Mysore Nataraja proposed and passed the following resolutions

#### **Resolution #1**

Thanks to all 50<sup>th</sup> committee volunteers and their family members for a successful Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

#### **Resolution #2**

Thanks to 2022 KEC members and family for a successful Golden Jubilee year

#### **Resolution #3**

Congratulations and best of luck to the KEC 2023 committee.

**Motion 1:** A motion was passed to accept the above resolutions by Mysore Nataraja. All resolutions were passed unanimously

#### **Resolution #4**

By BOT Chairman

As per the constitution of Kaveri all committees other than KEC are created by BOT for the specific purpose of conducting the event. Hence it is hereby proposed that all committees such as Steering Committee which were created by BOT for the sole purpose of conducting the Golden Jubilee Celebrations are hereby deemed to be closed. Any group which was authorized by the BOT to deal with financial transactions and had the authority to sign on behalf of BOT is hereby requested to cease any financial dealings and transfer all documents related to BOT to the treasure of Kaveri for completing any leftover actions. All accounts related to Golden Jubilee will be transferred to the Kaveri Executive Committee which will handle the same under a separate Kaveri Golden Jubilee account. The authority to sign financial transactions granted to the treasurer of the Steering Committee is hereby removed. All pending documents to be transferred to the treasurer of KEC to be dealt under a separate Golden Jubilee folder.

**Motion 04:** Mysore Nataraj passed a motion to dissolve all 50th Kaveri committees effective this date. This resolution was unanimously approved and passed by the General Body.

### **Mohan Venkobdas**

I request you to put the following proposed resolutions before the Kaveri General body during the GBM.

### **Resolution #5**

Increase the seed money KEC gets from the BOT to \$5000 from the current \$3500.

This is needed as we have more lifetime members. Now we have a total of 140 lifetime members. We have added 6 life members in 2021 and 25 life members in 2022. The current amount of \$3500 is based on the number of life members when the count was around 100.

### **Discussions**

Madash wanted to know where the seed money was being used. Give it with a goal to the coming KEC (In the past, seed money was given to conduct Natakotsava).

Mohandas said, this year there were 25 lifetime members, everything goes to BOT, spending is the same or more, so the new memberships won't happen for these 25. Mohandas says BOT should transfer that amount.

Madash stated that prior to BOT there were only lifetime accounts. After BOT the lifetime membership was transferred to BOT and was not going to KEC.

Mysore Nataraj mentioned that KEC does not have enough finances for their first event. Seed money is necessary for the first function in advance.

Girsh Vasudeva clarified that, in 2012, due to inflation and KEC had issues raising money, they started the seed money which was \$2000 and later it increased to \$3500.



Rohini Banavar added saying that, this year KEC had a hard time fundraising as most people had donated to the 50th year. So KEC needs that extra money.

Sudarshan said resolutions #1 to #5 are all related. General body agreed.

Sanjay Rao proposed to give a percentage of profits to KEC as BOT had a loss of \$35,000 due to financial markets. KEC may be required to reduce the number of programs or should be able to raise funds. General body discussions continued, and everyone agreed to raise the seed money from \$3500 to \$5000 with a guideline to use it as a loan.

Vinod questioned, Will \$5000 be returned to BOT? Will that be a mandate for KEC to return? Mysore Nataraj said that, for 50th celebrations, the seed money was given by BOT without knowing the outcome. However, it yielded profits, and the money was returned

**Motion 05:** A motion was passed to accept the proposed resolution to Increase the seed money from BOT to KEC to \$5000 from the \$3500 by Mysore Nataraj. General body unanimously approved and passed the resolution.

#### **Resolution #6**

Increase the Lifetime membership amount to \$500 (from the current \$350).

We need to increase the Lifetime membership amount due to higher inflation.

Madesh Basavaraju questioned, Do we need lifetime membership? Madesh says lifetime membership results as a loss to Kaveri in the long run. Mysore Nataraj said that the lifetime membership money invested gives better yield. It also shows long term commitment and encourages people to come. Discussions were deviating outside of the proposed resolution topic. Moderator asked the members to only focus on proposed resolutions and not any other topic. General body debated whether to increase the lifetime membership effective December 11, 2022 or January 1, 2023. General consensus was to increase the lifetime membership fee from \$350 to \$500 to be effective from December 11, 2022.

**Motion 06:** A motion was passed to increase lifetime membership fee from \$350 to \$500 effective December 11, 2022. This resolution was passed unanimously by the General body.

#### **Resolution #7**

Increase the Family membership amount to \$50 and the individual amount to \$25, inclusive of the square fees if using Square for payment. Currently, these amounts are \$40 and \$20, and there is an additional square charge if paying using Square

**Motion 07:** A motion was passed by the moderator to increase family membership amount from \$40 to \$50 and the individual membership fee from \$20 to \$25. This proposed resolution was unanimously approved and passed by the General body.

**Resolution #8**

In the future, automatically adjust the lifetime membership fees to be 10X the family life membership fees.

**Resolution #9**

Automatically Adjust the seed money to be 35X the lifetime members for the year.

Resolutions #8 and #9 are related items to resolution #5 and have been addressed.

**Resolution #10**

Girish Vasudeva

I would like to propose one of the below suggestions for the resolution, this is necessary to catch up with the inflation in recent years.

To increase Kaveri's Life membership from 350 to 500

Resolution #10 is the same as resolution #6 and has been passed

Mohan Venkobdas

Kaveri 50th account remaining funds

Thanks to the fundraisers, generous donors, and organizers, we have excess funds in the 50th-year celebration account. I propose these funds shall be invested and utilized as follows:

**Resolution #11**

The funds should be invested in income-generating and safe investments like treasury bonds.

**Resolution #12**

Every year \$1000 should be given to the Kannada Kaliyona program.

**Resolution #13**

Every year \$5000 should be given to the KEC towards the expenses for conducting the programs.

Discussions

Mysore Nataraj said that BOT is taking care of investing already and this resolution or anything related to investments cannot be discussed in the general body. One of the members mentioned that the Kannada Kaliyona program is already getting \$2000.

Mahesh Mahadeva

I want to propose the following resolution to the GBM based on the historical issues we have seen for the Kaveri elections process.

#### **Resolution #14**

To consider the continuity of Kaveri operations smoothly, want to propose a 4-step process, served in sequence, to apply for any Kaveri positions.

Step 1: Executive Committee or KYC coordinator (any active member is eligible)

Step 2: Office bearer - Secretary/Joint-Secretary/Treasurer/Joint-Treasurer (must have completed step 1)

Step 3: Vice-President (must have completed steps 1 and step 2)

Step 4: President (must have completed steps 1, 2 and 3 OR 1, 2 and an additional 1 year of service as office bearer)

The proposed steps here don't need to be continuous years. For ex: if a member needs to apply for an office bearer, he/she should have completed previous steps, which is step 1) in any of the previous years. And the same thing applies to Steps 3 and 4.

#### Discussions

Mysore Nataraj expressed saying this topic is like opening a can of worms. This needs a constant change to keep its validity. Trying to assume future conditions will be hard on the constitution. General body can't change by laws. There is a process to change the constitution and this resolution falls under that category and cannot be discussed at this point. Also, those who want to serve in the committee should not come at the last minute, but rather approach the people already in the committee and work with them showing their interest.

Madesh Basavaraju said Kaveri constitution is well written, but can't write this resolution as a by law. This should be considered as a guideline.

Bindu Gururaj mentioned that the guidelines can't be specific, they need specific talents for particular positions. That would be hard for other interested people.

Kumar says no need for the word guidelines. Scares the people who want to serve. Most people said guidelines don't mean that they are bylaws and are meant to be just that-guideline.

Haridas Lahari suggested including wordings in the constitution to avoid elections, as elections make it awkward for the Kaveri people and cause heartbreaks.

Sanjay Rao said people who are contesting for elections are treated as villains. Nagashankar openly opposed his statement. He said elections can happen, it should not be taken too emotionally and break the community, should be taken sportively. Nitish said even if I lost in elections, I came back to Kaveri. KEC 2023 support WhatsApp group started with many people whereas some people were not in the group. That's where the community is being divided.

Vinod - groups are being formed. Stating that candidate has a personal agenda. Words being used were 'personal agenda' for Nitish. Asking what did he do? All he did was he made 100 plus people come together and presented a wonderful program. So that is being treated as a personal agenda. This should be stopped. What happened during the campaign is not healthy. It is insulting to the people who gave the program.

Mysore Nataraj - no one should treat it as a personal agenda. Doing a drama should be a matter of pride. But it is in the perception.

Vinod - one program is being treated as a personal agenda. This is connected to the resolution whether elections need the process or not. Nitish also agreed.

Sudarshan said it is a democratic country.

Madesh Basavaraju asked Vinod to talk about himself. Not about others. Don't blame the whole group if one person talks. Vinod says he is not talking about the group.

Mysore Nataraj said don't get personal. There is always a problem whether there are elections or not. He wants the next best production at Kaveri done by Nitish. If he becomes VP or President, he will hardly have time to bring out the best talents. Requesting everyone to not feel bad and detach from the community. No ill feelings.

Mahesh said there was a committee formed 3-4 years back, to look at the bylaws and nothing resulted from that committee. Come and work in the committee and be a part of KEC.

Discussions continued regarding this resolution. No consensus was reached for this resolution.

Bindu Gururaj proposed a floor resolution.

### **Resolution #15**

Proposing to allow young adults to have a right to vote, if they fall under a family membership.

#### Discussions

Mysore Nataraj said that this resolution has to be included through the constitution amendment and needs a by law. Electronic voting should also be explored. This can not be discussed at this General body meeting.

Finally, the moderator announced the two BOT nominees Sri. Madesh Basavaraju and Smt. Savitha Rao to be inducted as BOT members for 2023 and asked the general body's approval. General body unanimously approved.

Vote of thanks was provided by Sudharshan Bhaktavatsala.

The Annual General Body meeting was adjourned around 8:35 PM.