

PATA Micronesia Chapter 1st Tri-Annual Meeting 2020

Friday, December 11, 2020

Venue: Virtual Meeting

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MINUTES**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by Chairwoman, Stephanie Nakamura,

1.1 With the following individuals in attendance:

1. Director Stephanie Nakamura
2. Director Paula Monk
3. Director Perdus Ehsa Jr.
4. Director Mark Manglona
5. Ms. Victoria Toves
6. Ms. Sandra Okada
7. Mr. Monte McDowell
8. Mr. Don Evans
9. Ms. Lou Aguon-Schulte
10. Ms. Denise Mendiola
11. Mr. Tony Ramirez
12. Ms. Rita Nauta
13. Mr. Edward Ariolla Jr.
14. Mr. Ronald Laguana
15. Ms. Sharisse Ngiraked
16. Mr. Ore Daid
17. Mr. Luciano Abraham
18. Ms. Anastasia Dujmovic
19. Ms. Judy Torres
20. Ms. Priscilla Iakopo
21. Mr. Douglas Marar
22. Ms. Kukulyn Gallen
23. Ms. Beverly Borja

2.0 MINUTES TAKEN BY: Mark Manglona

3.0 REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.0 INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: No guest speaker

5.0 **REPORT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN**

5.1 Chairwoman's Report given by Stephanie Nakamura:

Chairwoman Nakamura expressed that the past year has been a difficult one. She left PVA and is focusing on her family business. She shared that if anyone is needing previous minutes, to contact Sharisse from PVA who would have access to them.

6.0 **CHAPTER ELECTIONS**

Mark Manglona stated that the agenda of the meeting was sent out. He added that the intent of the meeting is to hold Chapter elections of officers who will lead the Chapter for the next 2 years.

Lou Aguon-Schulte requested that members who are not able to attend the virtual Chapter meeting be afforded the opportunity to vote.

Mr. Manglona requested the Board's opinion. He mentioned that there are more than 20 members present, which then allows the Chapter to hold elections because the required percentage of the membership present is met.

Ms. Aguon-Schulte stated that those present on the virtual meeting should be allowed to vote now and those not present, be allowed to vote with a deadline for Monday, December 14, 2020. She further stated that there are 23 members present and the required number to hold elections is 19.

Mr. Manglona shared that typically, members present in the meetings are the only ones allowed to voted, except for if proxy forms were provided.

Mr. Monte McDowell shared that there's no hurry and that we should give everyone an opportunity to vote.

Director Perdus Ehsa stated that meeting reminders and announcements have been sent over a week ago and says that we should then move forward with elections.

Director Paula Monk stated that a meeting was held a month prior to discuss elections. She added that in the past elections, members must be present in the meeting or provide a proxy in order to vote. She asked if we can look into the Chapter bylaws for clarification.

Ms. Sandra Okada agrees with Director Monk's comments, however shared that with her experience, technology in Micronesia is not exactly up to par with that of Guam. She questions if members in the region do want to attend the virtual

meeting but are unable to due technological issues. She also suggested that we wait until Monday to allow those that attempted to get online but are unable to.

Mr. McDowell shared that according to the bylaws, a quorum should be 10% of the membership to be present and those present today should be able to proceed with the elections.

Director Monk made a motion to cast elections virtually and allow members not currently present, to cast their votes by 5pm on Monday, December 14, 2020. Motion was seconded by Perdus Ehsa and motion was passed.

Mr. Toni Ramirez shared that we have to be considerate of the time zone of our members.

Ms. Denise Mendiola reported that nominations were received for:

- Paula Monk
- Luciano Abraham
- Perdus Ehsa Jr.
- Francis Carlos Domnick
- Stephanie Nakamura
- Elina Akinaga
- Dougla Marar
- Priscilla Iakopo
- Edward Arriola Jr.

Based on the PATA Chapter Handbook, it states that members of the Chapter Executive Committee shall serve a 2-year term but may not serve consecutive 2 year terms, except for the Vice Chair who may serve as Vice Chair and then Chair so after. Due to this, the nomination for Perdus Ehsa Jr. will not be allowed.

The following accepted their nomination:

- Paula Monk
- Luciano Abraham
- Carlos Francis Domnick
- Priscilla Iakopo
- Edward Arriola Jr.

Director Nakamura shared that the Chair position must be a member of big PATA. She asked if any of the FSM members are members of PATA International. Mr. Manglona stated that FSM is a member. Director Monk stated that MVA is a member of big PATA as well.

Mr. Manglona shared that according to the PATA Chapter Handbook, the Chair of the Chapter must be a PATA International member. A lengthy discussion took place related to the statement regarding the Vice Chair's ability to run again, but as a Chairperson, because of the fact the Vice Chair is not a PATA International Member and according to the PATA Chapter Handbook, the Chairperson must be a member of the PATA International Chapter. Meeting audio file is available for review.

Ms. Iakopo recommended that we look into the handbook and bylaws and seek legal opinion.

Ms. Okada asked if it was possible to proceed with the elections but do seek clarification and guidance from PATA International, and in the event if there's no option for the Chapter, then Ms. Monk would have to resign from the Board.

Ms. Mendiola also shared the advice that we proceed with the elections with the nominees with the notion to contact PATA International to seek clarification regarding the Chairperson not being a PATA International member and if that would be allowed or taken into consideration. Members present in the meeting were in agreement with this suggestion.

Mr. Manglona stated that there is a total of five (5) people who have accepted their nominations and asked if there are any more nominations.

Ms. Okada asked if we already nominated someone, can we nominate again? Mr. Manglona responded that members are only allowed to nominate once.

Ms. Aguon-Schulte stated that we should have two (2) PATA international members on the board. Because we only have one PATA international member who accepted their nomination, she asked if it's possible to enable one other member to be a PATA international member. She asked if United or Carlos Francis Dominck or anyone else can be a PATA international member.

Ms. Okada asked if Ms. Elina Akinaga is a PATA international member. Ms. Aguon-Schulte pointed out that she did not respond to accept her nomination. Ms. Okada then asked if we know for a fact that Ms. Akinaga received the email regarding her nomination. To this, Mr. Manglona responded that we cannot keep making exemptions and at some point, we would need to move forward with the nominations that were accepted then get advisement from PATA international regarding the results being that only one board member is a PATA international and if the Chapter is allowed to proceed with this result.

Ms. Rita Nauta added that we are experiencing unprecedented times and perhaps this may warrant deviating from the handbook and PATA international may be forgiving due to the situation.

Mr. Abraham added that for clarification, because Pohnpei and OCIT have around the same number of arrivals, Pohnpei would pay \$6,000 a year for membership with PATA international, which may be how much OCIT would also have to pay.

Mr. McDowell made a motion to proceed with elections and accept the five nominations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Okada. With no opposition, the motion was passed.

Election Chair, Ms. Denise Mendiola then asked each member present to cast their vote for the slate of nominees who have accepted their nominations. All present, except for Mr. Abraham who had to leave the meeting, voted for the approval of the five (5) nominees to the PATA Micronesia Chapter Board.

Therefore, the newly elected board members are as follows:

1. **Paula Monk**
2. **Priscilla Iakopo**
3. **Luciano Abraham**
4. **Carlos Francis Domnick**
5. **Edward Arriola, Jr.**

With the completion of the Chapter elections, the next line of business is the selection of the Chair and co-Chair of the Marketing, Education, Cultural Heritage & Environment and Membership Committees.

The following were nominated and accepted their role for Chair/Co-Chair of the various committees:

- Marketing: Mark Manglona & Ed Arriola, Jr.
- Education: Denise Mendiola & Don Evans
- Membership: Victoria Blas
- Cultural Heritage & Environment: Rita Nauta & Sandra Okada
- Public Relations: Lou Aguon-Sculte & Perdus Ehsa

Mr. Manglona made a motion to approve the nominations for Chair and co-Chairs. Motion was seconded by Ms. Paula Monk. With no objections, motion was passed.

7.0 OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

9.0 OTHERS

10.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newly elected Board Member, Ms. Paula Monk, thanked the members present for their time and engagement in the meeting. Ms. Monk expressed her commitment to the Chapter in whatever capacity she is in and encourages everyone to continue the engagement. She further thanked everyone for their dedication.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Upon no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Okada and seconded by Mr. Manglona, to adjourn the meeting at 2:57 p.m. Motion was passed.