

Swedish-Zambian Association
Minutes from the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
March 24, 2007
at Etnografiska museet, Stockholm

§ 1. Chairman Rolf Svanström opened the Annual General Meeting, welcoming all who attended.

§ 2. The meeting approved that the AGM was announced in due time.

§ 3. The meeting adopted the agenda.

§ 4. The meeting elected:

- a) Rolf Svanström as Chairman for the AGM.
- b) Lennart Simonsson as Secretary for the AGM.
- c) Ewa Larson and Paula Maritz to certify the minutes.

§ 5. Mr Svanström presented the board's Annual Report for 2006, noting that the Mindolo Youth Rights Information Centre project was progressing well and remained the focus for project activities. A Youth Centre was formally opened June 27 when association member Paula Maritz visited Mindolo. The youth club has attracted a group of youths who are very dedicated. Work is coordinated by volunteer Anna Tyllström,, who has also worked with organizational development at Mindolo during September to December. Her efforts have been praised by Mindolo's director Father Thomas and her assignment has been extended to May 31 after Forum Syd (SIDA) approved a new grant. Mr Svanström visited Mindolo as part of a follow-up visit at the end of October and had several fruitful meetings with the youth centre members and others.

The association's web site has been re-launched and attracts some 350 visitors a month. The board has good ties with the embassy staff and Ambassador Joyce Musenge, and has been able to use a conference room at the embassy for its meetings. The association has also organized several seminars for students interested in conducting Minor Field Studies, and this has generated some queries and attracted a few new members.

A question from the floor was raised about the board's suggestion to extend the Mindolo project a further three years. Some 24,000 kronor has been collected and after the association's share of the 2007 contribution, some 10,000 kronor remains, Mr Svanström said, adding that a more detailed discussion was to follow later according to the agenda.

§ 6. Treasurer Göran Midman presented the Financial Report for 2006. The association posted a surplus of some 5,900 kronor for the year; the balance increased to 21,700 kronor, and separate accounts were operated for the ongoing projects at Mindolo, Minor Field Studies and the web site project.

The association did not have any costs linked to membership meetings and gained income from a lottery.

Membership fees were slightly below budget. Mr Midman said. He also noted that the treasurer's duties have increased sizeably as a consequence of the project. The association has also been registered as an employer as part of requirements for the volunteer in Zambia.

Members have raised almost 50,000 kronor since the project began, including 15,000 kronor from a

lady in Årsta (who was not a member). Her generous donation resulted in a suggestion from the floor that she be offered to become an honorary member. The incoming board would look into this.

In connection with the audit, the auditors said it was not easy to get a quick overview of the various projects. Acting on their advice, the treasurer said he had therefore added some explanatory notes to his financial report.

§ 7. Since none of the auditors was able to attend the AGM, Mr Tell Åke Dahllöf was asked to read the Auditors' Report on their behalf.

The auditors recommended that the outgoing board should be held free from liability.

§ 8. The Auditors' Report was adopted by the meeting.

§ 9. The Annual Report and Financial Report were adopted by the meeting.

§ 10. The outgoing board was held free from liability by the meeting.

§ 11. Budget and membership fees.

The meeting approved to keep membership fees unchanged (200 kronor/family, 150 kronor/individual, 100 kronor/student). Mr Midman presented the 2007 budget where he estimated that membership fees for 2007 would generate 21,000 kronor (slightly lower than 2006). Costs for the Newsletter were raised to 10,000 kronor, and office costs (which includes ink cartridges etc.) were estimated at 8,000 kronor. A small surplus was estimated for 2007. The budget was accepted.

§ 12. Election of members to the Executive Committee:

a) Rolf Svanström, Chairman (1 year left on his term).

b) Elisabeth Persson was elected (new) Treasurer for 2 years.

c) Lennart Simonsson (1 year left).

Ylva Werlinder was elected (new) for 1 year.

Magnus Halling was elected (new) for 1 year.

Anna Tyllström was re-elected for 2 years.

Joyce de Maré was re-elected for 2 years.

d) Karl-Johan Sonnegård was re-elected as alternate for 1 year.

Tim Curtis was elected (new) as alternate for 1 year.

Karin Johansson was elected (new) as alternate for 1 year.

e) Göran Häggfeldt was re-elected as auditor for 1 year.

Tommy Hemmingsson was elected (new) as auditor for 1 year.

Nils Gunnar Smith was elected (new) as an alternate auditor for 1 year.

f) Margareta Sonnegård was re-elected as member and convenor of the Nominating Committee.

Paula Maritz and Tell Åke Dahllöf were also re-elected as Nominating Committee members.

- The Nominating Committee invited members and the incoming board to help suggest new members to the next Nominating Committee, particularly younger members and Zambians.

- The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Nominating Committee, the outgoing board and other members who have served in various capacities, and welcomed the incoming board.

§ 13. The only other item of business specified in the AGM notice (no members had sent in any proposals in advance) concerned the board's recommendation that the Youth Rights Information Centre project be extended beyond 2007.

Mr Svanström noted that the centre came off to a slow start , partly due to difficulties with transfers of funds etc but was now making good progress. Challenges included recruiting a local youth club coordinator (to replace volunteer Anna Tyllström). Another aim was to link up with private-funded schools. Unlike state-funded teachers, teachers from private schools do not need allowances to participate in weekend or out-of-school activities, which could possibly be a means to further involve adults with the youth. Reaching out to parents to get them to appreciate the need for offering youth more say – and to listen to their views - was another challenge. Future activities include a small youth exchange programme with Swedish youths.

The AGM approved extending the project, and the incoming board would therefore submit a new application latest August 15 to Forum Syd.

§ 14. Other business raised or supported by any member at the AGM.

The incoming board would investigate the matter of offering honorary membership to the lady in Årsta (§ 6).

The Chairman extended his thanks to outgoing board members: Siw-Inger Halling (absent), Carin Hedlund (absent), Tommy Hemmingsson and Göran Midman.

Mr Midman, who had served for 14 years as treasurer was given special recognition. For the past 10 years he has also been editor of the Newsletter and held several other posts, the Chairman said.

In brief remarks to the meeting, Mr Midman said he felt it was time to step down and that he was moving “back to the land” (Hjo in his beloved province Västergötland) where he has set up a little gallery and shop for historic prints – and members were of course welcome to pay a visit.

§ 15. The Chairman closed the meeting.

Rolf Svanström, Chairman

Lennart Simonsson, Secretary

Ewa Larson, Minutes Checker

Paula Maritz, Minutes Checker