

COM.IT.ES April Monthly Meeting – Monday 4th April 6:15pm

Com.It.Es SA – 262a Carrington St Adelaide

1. Welcome & apologies (Meeting start 6:30pm)

Present: Mark Quaglia, Christian Verdicchio, Angelo Fantasia, Alessandro Ragazzo, Angela Scarino, Mario Romaldi, Marinella Marmo, Alessandro Vecchiarelli.

Apologies:, Michael Donato, Antonio Rosato, Gianna Vorrasi, Martina Matta, Andrea Ramon, Tony Piccolo.

Consul Rep: Vice Consul Antonio Accorso.

2. Conflict of Interest

None

3. Confirmation of the agenda

None

4. Confirmation of March Minutes

4.1.1 Confirmation of minutes

Mark Quaglia moves, Angelo Fantasia seconds and carried.

4.1.2 Business arising

- Marylisa Fabian has assisted with the preparation of the 'consuntivo'.
- Sought advice with the Vice Consul about her position if able to issue an invoice or needs to be employed.
- Marinella Marmo and Angela Scarino, who were absent at the March meeting, complain about the selection, criteria and process as per February minutes the action was for them to put forward names to Mark Quaglia and Christian Verdicchio to potentially fill the position.

- Christian Verdicchio explains that it would've been a long process to look at CVs and that the consensus from the meeting that once names were given, that both Mark and Christian would appoint a person to fill the position prior to the following meeting in March.
- Angela Scarino raises that there should've been a brief discussion as she was making enquiries.
- Mark Quaglia adds that the process might not have been ideal but it was the general understanding at the February meeting to appoint someone to the secretarial assistant role by the March meeting.
- It is accepted to finalise this position at the next meeting, with a terms and job specification to be finalised and submitted at the May meeting for approval.

ACTION:

- Mark Quaglia will contact Marinella Marmo and Angela Scarino to discuss further.
- Christian Verdicchio to put together a full job specification based on feedback from Marinella and Angela for submission at the next meeting.

Referendum.

- Mark Quaglia congratulates Alessandro for the Radio segment, received good feedback.

5. Reports

5.1.1 President's – Mark Quaglia

- Intercomites document in dropbox.
- Spent a bit of time to finalise the 'consuntivo', learnt a bit more about the process.

5.1.2 Secretary's – Christian Verdicchio

- Correspondence:
 - Email Consul Ronzitti regarding insurance and Com.It.Es. members position as public officers. Copy in dropbox. Any insurance cover that is not included in the income and expenses regulation will not be covered by the Italian grant;
 - Received from Antonio Accorso the request from Filef for financial support regarding 'Nuovo Paese';
 - Documents from Franco Papandrea on the CGIE meeting;
 - Dante Alighieri's 'consuntivo';
 - Marco Zangari (COASIT Sydney) available for the new arrivals seminar on 27 April;
 - Dino Gadaleta on visit to Port Pirie;

Marinella Marmo praises Christian Verdicchio for keeping the dropbox updated with all relevant documents. Raises the issue of the 'Regolamento Interno' and needs to be dealt with.

Discussed process of emails to the Consul for meetings, Sara Potenza will be included in c.c.

5.1.3 Treasurer's – Christian Verdicchio (Interim)

- Reimbursement request of \$30 to Christian Verdicchio for Gmail payment of the last 6 months (November/April).
- Verdicchio moved for \$30 to be reimbursed, seconded Mario Romaldi.
- PO Box expires in June 2016. It will not be renewed.
- March payments submitted and tabled.
- Bank statement for March with a closing balance of -\$3,969.44.

Mark Quaglia outlines the need to appoint a treasurer as soon as possible. Asked Gianna Vorrasi to consider the position, will be discussed at the next meeting

Angelo Fantasia moves that all three reports be accepted, seconded Alessandro Ragazzo, all in favour.

6. Consuntivo 2015

6.1.1 Approval for funding assistance.

- Documentation presented. The 'consuntivo' has been signed off by the 2 auditors, Gildo Marveggio and Paolo Aromataris. They have checked the accounting records, income and expences.

- This year with the extract of the minutes, Com.It.Es. members will have to sign that they have viewed the 'consuntivo' and that it conforms to the accounting records.

Accorso adds that it is very important that all members verify the 'consuntivo' and invoices as they are ultimately responsible for the grant from the Italian Government.

Accorso leaves the meeting at 7.30pm

Marylisa informed that there is a discrepancy of \$14.10, an error that has occurred in the past that has never been rectified or adjusted.

Christian Verdicchio moves to accept and approve the 'consuntivo', seconded Mario Romaldi, all in favour.

7. Nuovo Paese

7.1.1 Request for funding from Filef for the 'Nuovo Paese' magazine tabled, documentation received on 16 March. Marylisa Fabian explained that the role of Com.It.Es. is to verify that at least 50% of the magazine is in Italian. The financial part is left with the Consul to deal with.

7.1.2 Com.It.Es. does receive a copy of Nuovo Paese, however not every Com.It.Es. members have seen it.

The committee is of the opinion that the documentation received is not enough to make a recommendation. Com.It.Es. is always supportive of any initiative that benefits the Italian community, and how important it is to give information in Italian and English to the community. However, after a long and detailed discussion, it was concluded that, based on the documents received, Com.It.Es. is unable to give a favourable recommendation to the Italian Consulate for FILEF's request of a contribution of \$23,622.93.

If Com.It.Es. was able to access more information, for example how the costs are distributed, more details on the distribution of the magazine, and others, probably could have offered a different outcome. In addition, and for the future, Com.It.Es. suggests for FILEF to consider how best to use today's technologies for printing and distribution of 'Nuovo Paese', because of the impact on costs incurred.

Scarino leaves the meeting at 8pm

8. Sub-Committees Reports

8.1.1 Communications and Public Relations (Christian Verdicchio)

- Italian Liberation Day
- Invites have been sent and the cost of the lunch will be \$40 instead of \$35 to cover some expenses.
- Gianna will be the MC for the day.
- Apologies for not attending: Marinella Marmo, Alessandro Vecchiarelli, Angelo Fantasia.
- Website.
- Met with Martina Matta and Antonio Rosato, aiming to finalise the website in May.

8.1.2 Community Engagement (Mark Quaglia as Michael Donato will be on leave for 3 months)

- Report submitted and tabled.
- New Arrivals Forum on 27/4/2106.
 - On the panel: Philip Grifoni for the Immigration department; Romeo Caporaso accountant on issue about payslips, ABN, etc.; Italian Consul on consulate services; Marco Zangari from COASIT who has written a book about an Italian who arrives in Australia; Zangar is paying for his own airfare but has asked for accommodation; Alessandro Vecchiarelli offered accommodation at his house.
 - It was suggested to identify few people to share their experiences, hardship, visas issues, etc. and have an open discussions with the participants.
 - Alessandro Vecchiarelli to be the forum mediator. The subcommittee will meet to organise Q&A.
 - Flyers will be distributed to places where young people meet. Promotion of the forum at the radio.

Action: Christian Verdicchio will contact Enrico Paterni at the radio.

- Regional visit
- The visit to Port Pirie is postponed to September for the Blessing of the Fleet.
- Welfare
- Consultation to be arranged with welfare organisations; 4 'Patronati', 8 Service Providers (7 in Adelaide and 1 in Mt. Gambier). It is important to know what they do and with the many challenges affecting the aged care/community sector how they see the future and have a general update on welfare issues.
- Angelo Fantasia touches issues on Commonwealth funding changes in 2017, the situation is not positive.

8.1.3 Memorandum of Understanding (Mark Quaglia)

- No report presented as priority was given to the 'consuntivo'.

8.1.4 Education and Research (Angela Scarino)

- No report was presented.

Marinella Marmo leaves the meeting at 8.20pm.

9. Intercomites Report

9.1.1 President Summary – Mark Quaglia

- Interesting meeting organised in Perth. Com.It.Es. SA is a bit different in comparison with others that have been there for a long time. Major discussion: Enti Gestori discussed funding cuts, difficult for everyone, disparity with some organisations like the Dante Alighieri, how to face issues; some Com.It.Es. have a close relationship with the Enti Gestori and no one seems to want to tackle any issues with significant changes; Hon Tony Piccolo presented a proposal for a National assembly of Italian Australians.

9.1.2 Proposal for National Association – Christian Verdicchio on behalf of Hon Tony Piccolo

- After the Italians Down Under Conference it was felt a need to have a National Council to represent the Italian Australian community and act on issues such language, culture, welfare, scientific, business, etc. and provide a uniform lobbying action.
- The National Council will not overlap with existing Italian Australian institutions and associations but will include them as major resources.
- With Hon Piccolo will meet with the Ambassador.
- Once the proposal for the National Council is approved at the next Italians Down Under Conference in September a constitution will be drafted.

Alessandro Vecchiarelli suggested viewing the document in dropbox and give feedback

10. Consular report.

None.

11. Other business

- Italian Republic event, no information available.
- Marinella on maternity leave, will notify when she will be able to attend Com.It.Es. meetings.
- Michael Donato on leave for 3 months.

Meeting Closes at 9.15pm.

Next Meeting Monday 2st May 2016