

COM.IT.ES. South Australia – Tuesday 11 May 2021, 6:30pm  
Zoom Meeting

MINUTES:

**1. Welcome & apologies**

- Present: Dr. Christian Verdicchio, Martina Matta, Mark Quaglia, A/Prof. Angela Scarino, Alessandro Ragazzo, Andrea Ramon.
- Apologies: Gianna Vorrasi, Michael Donato, Antonio Rosato, Hon. Tony Piccolo,
- Consular Rep: Mariangela Sturaro (accounting office)
- CGIE Representative: Prof. Franco Papandrea

**2. Conflict of Interest**

None.

**3. Confirmation of the agenda**

None.

**4. Confirmation of February 2021 minutes**

Angela Scarino moved, seconded Alessandro Ragazzo and carried.

4.1.1 Business arising

None.

**5. Reports**

a. President's – Dr. Christian Verdicchio

**Italian Liberation Day.** Thanked everyone who attended and helped.

**Youth Language Project.** A successful event, nice atmosphere with 60 people attending, teachers, students and their families. Great presentation from the students.

**Italian Funds.** Com.It.Es. has received Funds for Cap. 3103 about \$11,500 that will cover rent, administration, etc. Still need to organise a seminar for the New Arrival.

**Com.It.Es Elections for 2021.** A date has been selected, 3 December 2021. From September Com.It.Es. will act as a caretaker for the administration but will complete all projects. He informed he will not seek re-election but being part of Com.It.Es. was a great experience. Martina Matta also informed that she will not continue with Com.It.Es.

Discussion followed on:

- facilitating with those who are interested in Com.It.Es.;
- continuity – no continuity could be an issue; Com.It.Es. has introduced projects that are innovative and it will be sad not to be able to continue on this path;
- invited young Com.It.Es. members to continue for another term;
- provide mentoring.

Franco Papandrea suggested considering having 1 or 2 members that would be prepared to continue and act as mentors. He also added that he has been a big supporter of this Com.It.Es. from the beginning, He thanked everyone for their collaboration.

***Mark Quaglia moved to accept the President report, seconded by Angela Scarino, all in favour.***

b. Secretary's – Martina Matta

Correspondence in dropbox.

Invites:

- COASIT Volunteer Award 13 May, Gianna Vorrasi to attend;
- Associazione Carabinieri (Scalzi) celebration, Mark Quaglia to attend.
- Sent letter to the Premier and to the Lord Mayor of Adelaide requesting the illumination of Parliament House to acknowledge the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Republic of Italy.

c. Treasurer's – Mark Quaglia

Received funds from the Italian Government for \$11,559.90. Projects to complete: Community Engagement forum and the New Arrivals.

***Angela Scarino moved to accept and approve all reports presented, seconded by Alessandro Ragazzo, all in favour.***

d. Consul Rep. – Mariangela Sturaro

- Eftos payments in place.
- Working on a questionnaire on Italian citizenship by descent to understand whether people are eligible. The Consulate is seeking assistance from Com.It.Es. to promote the initiative.

e. CGIE – Prof. Franco Papandrea

**Com.It.Es. Elections.** CGIE has presented a strong review proposal on Com.It.Es. legislation in particular the voting system. Voting by registering has proved not to be ideal as it resulted in a low participation from electors.

CGIE has convened a video conference for 19 May 2021 which will be attended by the Undersecretary Benedetto Della Vedova, MAECI officials and CGIE Councillors.

**Promotion of Language and Culture.** Difficulties encountered by the ‘Enti Gestori’ in the application of the new Directives ‘Circolare n. 3’, concerning contributions to their projects. In this regard, a technical committee has been created to assess possible practical improvements to the new legislation.

The new legislation has caused trouble and concerns and the CGIE is aware that the ‘Ente Gestore’ in South Australia, Dante Alighieri Society, had pulled out in applying for funds reasons. Not every ‘Ente Gestore’ have enough of own funds to cover until the Italian Government funds are available. Applications for funds must be submitted 6 months before they start of their activities. Better support from the ministry is needed. The ‘Enti Gestori’ abroad are, like the Dante Alighieri, making a stand.

Discussion followed:

- the new legislation has had an impact on the ‘Italiani nel Mondo’;
- South Australia has the highest group of people with Italian being their 1<sup>st</sup> language spoken at home, it is appalling for the State not having support from the Italian Government;
- funds mechanism out of touch, needs a review; it is required that the ‘Enti Gestori’ to contribute to the costs of projects to at least 20% of the total; funds arriving too late in the year; other ‘Enti Gestori’ in Australia have other funds that they can use;
- the Dante Alighieri committee in South Australia is made of volunteers;
- impact of Dante Alighieri decision, legitimate at some level, but left SA with no other provision; could have consulted with Com.It.Es.
- Consul will look for an alternative, the new legislation allows other bodies to operate.

Dante withdraw is a concern and Franco Papandrea will speak with the Dante Alighieri President Edmondo Palombo and Dr. Stefano Bona Education officer for Dante. Issues with Dante Alighieri have been going on for a while; caution with new groups; problems need to be also addressed at national level.

Christian Verdicchio suggested including Angela Scarino and the Consul in the discussion.

6. **Sub-Committees Reports**

- a. Community Engagement and Public Relations – Dr. Christian Verdicchio

**Community Forum.** To discuss the format, who would be speaking, what to discuss. Suggested to invite Matteo Farina.

- b. Education and Research – Prof. Angela Scarino

**Language Forum/Conference.** Enjoyed the forum, it was lovely to hear the young ones presentations and the Q&A after. Teacher's presentation was also good. Thanked all colleagues who supported the project; Gianna Vorrasi and Marylisa Fabian for assisting on the day and all who came. Received much feedback. Wrote to all participants of the project and their families.

*Angela Scarino moved to thank Christian Verdicchio for all his support, seconded by Mark Quaglia, all in favour.*

7. **Other business**

None.

8. **Meeting Close** 8.00 pm

Next meeting Tuesday 17 July 2021 at 6:30pm



Dr Christian Verdicchio  
President



Martina Matta  
Secretary