

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Executive Committee 2018/19

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Executive Committee for 2018/19 held on Monday, 28 January, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 201, 2/F., Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present : The Hon. Bernard Chan (Chairperson)
Ms. Yvonne Chak
Ms. Susan Chan
Ms. Kitty Chau
Mr. Andy Ho
Ms. Elizabeth Law
Dr. Annissa Lui
Mr. Joseph Man
Ms. Bonnie So
Ms. Wong Sau Wa
Ms. Noel Yeung
Dr. Alice Yuk
Mr. Charles Chan
Mr. Francis Chau
Mr. Benny Cheung
Mr. Lai Wing Hoi
Ms. Irene Leung
Ms. Becky Luk
Hon. Shiu Ka Chun
Mr. Edmond Wong
Mr. Stephen Wong
Ms. Yvonne Yeung

In-Attendance : Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, Chief Executive
Ms. Crystal Cheng, Business Director
Mr. Anthony Wong, Business Director
Mr. Cliff Choi, Business Director

Apologies : Mr. Larry Kwok
Mr. Kennedy Liu
Mr. Ng Shui Lai
Ms. Amarantha Yip
Dr. Lam Ching Choi
Dr. CC Luk
Ms. Kathy Wong

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. Minutes of the last meeting dated 3 December 2018 were confirmed with no amendment.

MATTERS ARISING

2. No matters arising were noted.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND APPROVAL

To note the Chief Executive's Progress Report

3. Members noted the Chief Executive's Progress Report and Mr. Chua provided supplementary information on below issues.
 - Review on CSSA: Mr. Chua highlighted that, responding to the government's planned adjustment of age limit on elderly CSSA scheme, the Council had coordinated views of the sector and a meeting would be arranged with Secretary for Labour and Welfare to express the concerns as well as to discuss follow-up actions on CSSA review, in particular the timetable and how to engage the sector.
 - Agency Heads Meeting and HKCSS Spring Gathering 2019: Members were reminded of the invitations to attend agency heads meeting to be held on 29 January and the annual Spring Gathering on 14 February.
 - Overseas NGO Law follow-up: Mr. Chua highlighted that, in light of the implementation of NGO law in the Mainland, the Council had been working closely on the supporting

work for NGOs with operations in China. And, a meeting with Bureau Secretaries of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and Labour and Welfare would be arranged on 1 February to discuss the needs and concerns of NGOs in relation to the registration under Overseas NGO Law.

To note the Position of Funds

4. Reported by Ms. Elizabeth Law, Hon. Treasurer, Members noted the Position of Funds.

To note and approve the Application for Agency Membership

5. Members noted and approved below applications for agency membership:
- Agent of Change Foundation Limited 加油香港基金有限公司
 - Healthy Seed Limited 慈慧幼苗有限公司
 - Hong Kong Prostate Foundation Limited 香港前列腺基金有限公司

Ms. Yvonne Chak declared interest at the Meeting for being the proposer of Healthy Seed Limited.

The following membership applications were not approved:

- The Mushroom Initiative Limited 菇菌圓有限公司
- Tsuen Wan Government Secondary Technical School Alumni Association Charitable Foundation Limited 荃灣官立工業中學校友會慈善基金有限公司

The Council's membership unit would liaise with aforesaid agencies on the follow-up procedures.

To note and approve the Signing Authorization for Contracts and Instruments entered into by Council

6. Members noted and approved that, the Chief Executive be delegated with signing authorization for all contracts and instruments entered into by the Council.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

To note and approve Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of HKCSS (the Council)

7. Mr. Chua reported that the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) was conducting a charitable status review on HKCSS since November 2017. And, after examining the existing Constitution of the Council, IRD stated that the Objects of the Council should be refined to spell out explicitly our intending meanings and our object(s) should fall into any one or more of the charitable heads, and that we might add additional charitable object(s), as appropriate. According to IRD, the charitable purposes were classified into four heads. They were (a) relief of poverty; (b) advancement of education; (c) advancement of religion; and (d) other purposes of a charitable nature beneficial to the community not falling under any of the preceding heads. While the purposes under the first three heads may be in relation to activities carried on in any part of the world, those under head (d) will only be regarded as charitable if they are of benefit to the Hong Kong community.

Mr. Chua noted that the Hon. Legal Advisor and Hon. Treasurer had been consulted for advice and proposed amendments were then prepared for Executive Committee's consideration (ExCo). Subject to the endorsement of ExCo for (i) proposed amendments to be channeled to IRD for their further comments; (ii) to note that, according to the Constitution of HKCSS, any amendment(s) to the Constitution should only be made by passing a resolution at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM); and (iii) Members of ExCo to be consulted before presenting the finalized proposal at an EGM, which targeted to be conducted in November 2019. Members were invited to comment and to endorse aforementioned items (i) – (iii).

To summarize, Members have given comments in particular to the proposed amendments

made to the Aims of the Constitution, in order that the objects of the Council would comply with the definition of charitable institution, as required by IRD. In general, Members opined that the amended clauses should still allow for higher flexibility of the Council in furtherance of its services not limited only to Hong Kong, and hence a suggestion that in order not to narrowing the Aims of the Council, was noted, such as to add “Hong Kong and elsewhere”. Other wordings were also being counter-proposed by Members, such as to include ‘innovation’, etc. The Chairperson noted Members’ views and delegated the management of the Council to handle and work on details with IRD. Mr. Chua also thanked Members for endorsement of aforementioned items (i), (ii) and (iii), and for their views which would be carefully considered. Further updates would be reported once available.

Feedback on Extended Governance Meeting on HKCSS Business Plan 2019-20

8. Mr. Chua thanked Members of governance for joining the Extended Governance meeting and for fruitful exchanges of views on a number of issues that the sector was concerned about. Mr. Chua also noted that core initiatives being proposed by the management for 2019-2020, including capacity building of NGOs and professional development; innovation and technology application in social services; carer support policy and services; and social protection through social housing, were in principle supported by Members.

Members’ suggestions collected would be taken into careful consideration by the Council and to be further deliberated in respective Standing and Specialized committees. Subsequently, a HKCSS Core Business Plan 2019-20: strategic areas and key social development agenda & objectives would be submitted to ExCo for final endorsement at the Meeting in March 2019.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9. The next meeting was scheduled for 25 March 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 201 of Duke of Windsor Social Service Building.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.