

SPECIAL RESOLUTION # 04/2019 SUBSCRIPTION FEES: ADDITIONAL MODES OF PAYMENT

WHEREAS:

1. The National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago (hereinafter “the Trust”) is a body corporate governed by the Rules (hereinafter “the Rules”) set out in the First Schedule of the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago Act Chap. 40:53 (hereinafter “the Act”);
2. Section 4(3) of the Act states that the Rules of the Trust may be amended from time to time by special resolution passed by Members of the Trust and approved in writing by the Minister;
3. Formalities governing special resolutions were adopted by the membership under Special Resolution #01/2017 at the AGM held on 9 November 2017 whereby The Rules of the Trust can be amended by special resolutions passed by the membership in accordance with Section 4 (3) of the Act. Notice of the resolutions as special resolutions should be provided to membership a minimum of twenty-one calendar days prior to the general meeting. A special resolution should be approved by a majority of not less than seventy-five percent of the votes cast by members who voted in respect of said resolution;
4. Section 14(1) (b) of the Act empowers the Council with the approval of the Minister to make Rules generally for the conduct and regulation of affairs of the Trust and relative to any matter or thing whatsoever which may in any way concern the sound administration of the Trust;
5. Sound management of the membership and the affairs of the Trust require the application of prudent strategies to ensure financial sustainability in the operations of the Trust and to achieve effective outreach to members and the wider public;
6. Section 6 (e) of the Act authorises the Trust to raise funds through inter alia membership subscriptions and in such other manner as it considers expedient for the effective carrying out of its functions;
7. The Strategic Plan 2019-2023 adopted by the membership recognised the potential to harness information and communication technologies (ICT) for heritage promotion and awareness;
8. The Trust currently receives payment of membership subscriptions directly at its office, at events as well as through direct deposit to its First Citizens Bank account, nonetheless, there has been a growing demand by members and the wider public for alternative modes of payment for tickets, goods and membership subscriptions that are accessible throughout the country and outside the office hours of the Trust;
9. Given the thrust to leverage ICT for heritage promotion, the Trust has partnered on several occasions with a ticketing service (Suntixx) to significantly boost sales of tickets for tours and events whereby tickets are purchased through their country-wide network of partners (Lotto booths, etc.) with ticket prices fixed to factor in the cost of the transaction/service;
10. Given the success and ease of this service, the members are asked to consider including the additional facility of paying membership subscriptions on-line or using bill payment systems (e.g. VIA) and a transaction/service fee payable to a third-party vendor as follows:

| Membership Class | Rate Subscription | of | + | Suntixx Online service fee | or | NLCB/VIA service fee |
|---|------------------------------|-----------|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Ordinary | \$ 25.00 | | \$ | 6.25 | \$ | 7.50 |
| Preferred | \$ 50.00 | | \$ | 7.50 | \$ | 7.50 |
| <i>(or Revised Preferred, if adopted)</i> | \$ 100.00 | | \$ | 7.50 | \$ | 7.50 |
| Family (exceeding four) | \$ 200.00 | | \$ | 15.00 | \$ | 10.00 |
| Life | \$ 1,000.00 | | \$ | 55.00 | \$ | 50.00 |
| Corporate | \$ 1,000.00 | | \$ | 55.00 | \$ | 50.00 |
| Association | \$ 250.00 | | \$ | 17.50 | \$ | 12.50 |
| Junior (under 18 years old) | \$ 20.00 | | \$ | 6.00 | \$ | 7.50 |

11. Members are asked to note that in addition to this proposed mode of payment, members may continue to elect to pay annual subscriptions directly to the office of the National Trust and via direct deposit to the designated bank account of the National Trust at no transaction-free and the mode of payment remains at the discretion of the member;
12. The Act is silent on the matter of modes of payment of membership subscriptions and transaction fees and it should be noted that third-party vendors reserve the right to amend their transaction fees from time to time.

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED that:

Rule 5 (5) be inserted in the First Schedule with the following text:

Annual subscription fees payable to the National Trust on the anniversary of the member's joining may be deposited directly at the office of the National Trust or via direct deposit or transfer to the designated bank account of the National Trust at no transaction fee. Alternatively, such payments to the Trust may be made online, via a third-party bill payment/ticketing system at a transaction/service fee to be disclosed to the membership prior to such transaction or via any other mode of payment that the Council may from time to time direct.

For:

Against:

Abstained: