

BOT Meeting September 11, 2010

Members present: S. Kapoor, Balgopal, C. Patel, J. Patel, U. Rao, V. Mallu, S. Reddy, A. Chhajer, K. Topudurti, K. Goel

Minutes of the Aug 29, 2010 Meeting distributed. Passed with member review, Balgopal: As corrected. [Minor corrections] Kapoor: Motion Passed.

- Kapoor: Pre-bidding contract is next Saturday. Imp: We saw emails going round to us, past BOT members and others. Series of concern from community people. We have followed different BOT procedures. We all share responsibility, not any one person– Me, Mallu, Chhotabhai, or Koeli only – everybody is responsible. Everybody is in it together. We have to make a decision if we are ready to go into it together. That is why we are meeting today. Puja is next week. But it is bothering me a lot. We all passed the motion and should abide by that. But I want to clarify my position: I might not be here as president next year but as long as I am here: this is BOT responsibility, we are all part of this if people criticize. Let us decide collectively and communicate to the community.
- Balgopal: Let's have a procedural thing, each person take 3 minutes [Kapoor: 2 minutes if possible]
- Subbu: As a team the community has trusted us to do something, as a team let us perform, make progress and get something done for the community. I talked to people – everyone wants a temple. What is our primary purpose. Basement – peripheral [several people join in]. Focus on fact, what is the situation, to get it done this year. No purpose in dragging it on. I request: look at financial situation, present to the community and go ahead.
- C. Patel: after decision in May, I suggested something, but it was neglected. I am a new person, don't know a lot. Every time I make a suggestion there's always questioning and I didn't see any support. At some point, I'm worried about the sustainability of the temple. There would be no income without the basement. The plan – as soon as you enter – there's a restroom – never seen it in any other temple. [All: That is not right, Lemont has it.] We have to try harder. Seth was here, we can approach people like that for big donations. If that failed we can go for smaller plan.
- Rao: We always respected your suggestion. We apologize if we said something. We want you with us. We must work together. Our small community Champaign, Danville etc. we have tried for 8-9 years but we have not managed to get that much towards the building. As for the second generation, they are all going, not staying – and they are giving donation to the bigger places – Florida etc. Looking at financial situation, sustainability, I would go with single floor plan.
- Balgopal: I have been on BOT continuously. I have no objection to having a broader goal but knowing the pulse of this community What I did was that after the last meeting ended I got very troubled – I told my wife I need to do something. Let me go to some more people in community people who are well established, well respected, 30-40 years here.. Explained – this is the situation, will you give some more. I was received very well. BUT except for 1 check of \$2000, I didn't get anything. I didn't get that kind of enthusiasm. SO either we go complete a phase OR

wait for I don't know how long. Second, expanding is not the real issue. As Bhowmik's mail mentioned we have to re-discuss that. When we go to the zoning board we are going as the owner of the land and it has entirely different meaning - it would mean I can and am allowed anytime to add to my house/ building. Ownership is different/ buying is different. I contacted and found more info. My personal sincere hope is that time has come, I truly believe it is time now for the temple to come up and people who are sitting on sidelines will give some more once it is going up.

- Kiran: When we are a group of people of 15 there's always difference of opinion. We should discuss in a fair, logical and practical manner and move forward when decision is made. I can remember a time frame in May when we were all together. When Chhotabhai came to organize – he did it wholeheartedly – he put everything in it. We thank him for what he has done, also for fundraising. Difference of opinion should not be splitters. We will make many more decisions. I am asking again – keep individual views aside and go with the majority. Let's be practical. We have only \$300,000 in the pocket. We need another 450,000 – it is a challenge ahead. If we ask the community – some will say we want a community Center and others something else. If we stay together we can build, if we don't we won't. Please let us vote together, stand together.
- Reddy: As Danville representative – everyone wants a temple. We should be a unit. Between these communities they elected us as the Board and we have to be together – we are splitting and we r splitting the community. We HAVE to put community together. Everyone has their opinion but finally if we are not strong, we will not achieve our goal. We should proceed together.
- Aradhana: From the beginning I have been for the community center. It is a very important part for me. Most people go to the temple for social reasons. As for praying, most people have temples in their own house but they go to temple for community. We have to value these opinions.
- Mallu: Let us thank Dr. Kapoor who has worked very hard. My sincere appreciation for him. Thank you for this service. THEN: right from the beginning, a community center along with the temple had been the plan. Most people say if possible, let us do the community center as we go for the temple – majority support if there are both things. That dream is gone. When dreams are gone there's no hope. If you want to build – make sure there is a lower level. Sustainability qs. I have seen single floor temples – but they are struggling. As for unity – that's why I am here on the Board. I have cut social life since May. I am telling people if you have to give checks, give them...
- Multiple member discussion
- Koeli: I heard in Daville that the temple has been cancelled.
- Kapoor: This is what we have to be afraid of. It is important in a small community. We must have this kind of understanding and we have to move on and show we are doing something. Some emails had interpretations on their own. Net result is detrimental. And affects the morale of everybody. We have to be very careful how we proceed. What is the action item here. Let us look carefully so we have a set goal.

- C. Patel – do we have money to do all 6500 sq ft [No, only 5000] DISCUSSION of different plans including one where subsequent dismantling and reorganization is required.
- Kapoor: we are going for plan where no dismantling will be there
- Balgopal: Clarify to me Chhotabhai –you will have deities in that area? [DISCUSSION with Mallu/ Balgopal]
- Mallu: After making this 1000 – we can make another 1000 for food service - Build 1000 s.f. and basement and temporary bathroom.
- Bal – everywhere I go people are generous but they say, we have already given. They are patrons. My constituency: we have given and have nothing more to give. The question – is there anything – the larger plan – more money which might be forthcoming? What is the pulse of your friends, what kind of money etc. hard cash might be forthcoming do we know anything?
- Mallu: Very difficult. There is no income from this plan.
- Kapoor: There is kitchen. And for how long it will take for income to flow? It is a moving target. Many temples had 5 years but finished in 2 years.
- Bal: No but do we know when? When we started, 5 or 10 friends in my constituency said they will put substantial amount and they came through.
- Mallu: In any technical situation there is incubatory period, - during this period, people come and put money in the initial stage and then the graph stabilizes and then goes up. Once we go to that part money will come. When we started we had only \$150,000 but finally we paid \$400,000.
- Kapoor: There is no population in U-C to pay that kind of money. Total number of population we are looking at are 250 families. Most families go away because of the nature of the rest of the population – students, visiting scholars, etc. Based on latest number – 200 families are on the list. Others are post-docs, residents – they go away – temporary – and their attitude is we will not give you the money. The people who are living in this town are 200 only – and never have we reached the number who will make up the big amount.
- Mallu: When we communicated we did not have many. Then we brought Sanjeeva and 20 people came. There are permanent businessmen. About 150.
- Bal – O.K. I am endlessly pursuing – I have gone everywhere tirelessly. But we are not dumb. We know who makes what and I have knocked on people’s doors.
- Kapoor: If you have 150 people list – that’s what we want to hear. We want those people. To Chhotabhai: Is it true? Are there 150 people?
- Aradhana: The current plan, is there a kitchen? Can people eat there?
- SEVERAL: Yes.
- Kiran: That room can be used for diff purposes – 40 people can sit down except weekends.
- Aradhana: Can we do Ugadhi or Diwali?
- ALL TALK. There is space for the food. There is scope for rounding off the different areas.
- Kiran: This is the first floor plan – if we say it is everything for everyone, we are kidding ourselves. It is something for everyone. Point: we have this much money – what is the starting point?

- Mallu: We have waited for several years. Some of us, Bal you, me and Aradhana are old. Most people are new. At this point, I want to say, my term is over. This will be my last meeting. My opinion is if you want you can go ahead. Do this plan, with basement with the money we have.
 - Kapoor: Whole idea is that we got to move ahead. Have something to give the community. GO step by step. In future there will be a lot of other options. We may be able to build basement and first floor.
 - Mallu: Is this the last BOT meeting?
 - Bal: Chhotabhai, you were a phenomenal addition to the BOT with your enthusiasm. What kind of pulse do you know that you can say that this is the money you can bring in?
 - Chhotabhai – we should have taken a little more time. Open discussion.
 - Kapoor – right now no other concrete plan or proposal is there on that front for substantial amount of new money coming in. If there is nothing, then we are going to go ahead with the bidding. Sep 24 all are welcome to come to IGW. Let's move on and give something to community. We are so close to getting something, majority people want to see something happening. Mallu, I request you to support.
 - Mallu: I cannot support something I do not approve.
 - Kapoor: Be happy. Try to come out.
 - Rao : Let us not go to personal level.
 - Jeetu Bhai:
 - Kapoor: One more Sep 26. Nominating committee. That will be last meeting for BOT. Then 2 weeks after that General body meeting – and new board will be elected.
- MEETING ADJOURNED.