

September 26 BOT Meeting [Approved at the Oct 30 Meeting unanimously]

Members present: Shiv Kapoor, Balgopal, Uma Rao, Sanjeeva, Chhotabhai, Kiran, Aradhana, Mallu, Koeli

Other community members present: Nani Bhowmik, Mr. Nukulla, Sharada Panditi

- The BOT opens the various bids forwarded by several contractors and builders and deliberates over them after a table is drawn to reflect a comparative analysis. Dr. Kapoor: Columns I and 2 A are what we want to see.
- Discussion on S/S of differential costs by different bidders.
- Kapoor: The motion on how to proceed from this step. We have 3 tiers of bids. [S/S attached]
- Balgopal: Move for further clarification of tier 1 and 2 and discard tier 3 bids.
- Chhotabhai: Let's think a little. Any contractor out-of-town will cost a little more. As long you can find someone nearby. Will be our best bet. Also warranty will be covered in a way outside bidders might not be able to.
- Balgopal : Shrok is local
- All : All local
- Kapoor: Only Sachi is outside.
- Balgopal: Among the 8 contractors, Sachi is the only desi contractor and the only one with proven track record wjth our kind of needs. My suggestion – I agree that we should take to local people. But want to get a little clarification for Sachi – why so high price and can we negotiate.
  - Response: He had said I will have a full time person to come and stay here. We can ask questions.
- Mallu: When we discuss with them, they will ask questions. We cannot say confidential all that.
- Kiran: Practice is to say: give us your final offer. We should never disclose their rankings.
- Balgopal: The base [1A] on what basis have they calculated it. The breakdown.
- Nani – We would like to request an itemized description.
- Kapoor: All 6 people we are discussing, we should get more details at this point.
- Kiran: Yes.
- Kapoor: to Balgopal – is that what your motion is?
- Balgopal: Yes.
- Chhota: I know English and Shrok all have good reputation. [All agree]
- Reddy: They have experience In temples?
- No
- Sharada: Churches.
- Chhota: We can build the building and then use an Indian contractor for Indianizing.
- ALL AGREE
- Kapoor: Let us have a motion
- Balgopal: I am asking for further data through mail, if necessary, not needed for face to face. [Chhotabhai]: Little more discussion needed. I think some additional figures in 2 A are low. Do they know what they are bidding for? DISCUSSION Balgopal: You are saying that if you take 2A,

that is something we can ask for - 1 A and then for 2 A because that is where are Parivars are.  
And Ask for more money]

- NAni: Itemized description of costs
- Balgopal: Do you want only for 1a and 2a itemized.
- Group response: ONLY 1 a + 2 A
- Balgopal: We ask for tier 2 and 1 for 1 a and 2 a itemized costs.
- Kapoor: All in favor. All: Ayes. Oppose: None.
- Balgopal: Do we ask them to respond within a time frame.
- Sharada: Typically they already have the numbers.
- Kiran: So we can ask for by Wed? Shiv are you planning to send message to all bidders – and say we have received your bids and are considering them and we will let you know. Only those we have screened will be asked for extra figures.
- Sharada: Are you going to ask for a timeline.
- Kiran: 2 things: 2 emails. First one will be plain acknowledgement with the message “we will get back to you shortly”. Second one should be to 6 other people for more information.
- Mallu: We have to consider the bid bonds.
- Sharada: Typically we keep the lowest 3 and mail back other bid bonds.
- Kiran: For how long they keep bid bonds?
- Sharada: 1 week 2 weeks. The lowest ones for 4-5 weeks. But if you hold the bid bonds then their money is tied up. So you have to consider that.
- Kiran: At this time let us say we will get back shortly. [All: 4 weeks is reasonable]
- DISCUSSION on which to return etc. and how to deal with asking for more information.
- Kiran: We agree on the 2 emails. By Friday.
- Uma Rao: No, ASAP. Let us prepone.; Balgopal: Let us give them till Friday.
- Kapoor: Another important issue: Nominating committee. 2 weeks from now we will have the General Body meeting October 10. We will have the meeting. Now we have 16 members.
  - Last year we added one more, so total 17.
  - Based on that proposal – 4 3-yr terms
  - 5 2-yr terms
  - 6 one-year terms
  - Then of course, one alumni and one student
  - Now 5 people outgoing – Kapoor, Reddy, Boddu, Pardesi, Jeetendra Patel [These will have to be re-elected for getting on the board.] With these: Koeli, Jay
  - Rajeswari and Narayan Rao – no longer interested and need to be replaced
  - Therefore we need to select 11 people.
    - We need 4 for 3 yr
    - 1 for 2yr term
    - 6 for 1 year terms
  - We also need to discuss about selecting the nominating committee. Now we need to appoint Nom com. Usually 3 people from board. And 3 from outside.
- Mallu: Could you clarify. BP and GLA [Gold Life Annual] how many.

- Kiran: I can suggest but I welcome suggestions from the floor. SO, we have 2 weeks to work on after we decide today. It is all confidential.
- Balgopal: Don't we have to send email to whole community?
- Mallu: Last time I sent email. 2 people wanted to know who are the outgoing people?
- Balgopal: Today is Sun. 2 weeks from today is General body. To prepare the slate there's not that much time.
- Mallu: If you send today give them till next Sat.
- Balgopal: Self nominate? [YES]
- Aradhana: Sunday is going to be Oct 10.
- Kapoor: I reserved this downstairs hall. Let us hear who the people are who we want to be on the committee. Outgoing people cannot be in nominating committee. Choices are: Kiran, Aradhana, Chhotabhai, Rao, Shankar, Subbu are eligible for nominating committee.
- DISCUSSION about procedures.
- Chhotabhai, Balgopal, Aradhana, Subbu
- Kapoor: We need representation from Charleston or somewhere like that. The only problem is the distance. But they can serve to recruit some more people from there.
- Aradhana: How many people do we have in Charleston?
- We have 2 families.
- Balgopal: Permanently – 15 to 20 families. [EIU and physician groups]
- Mallu: There are up to 30 Gujarati families.
- Kapoor: SO I am thinking to get some of them. Jog and Adukia.
- Balgopal: What about Decatur?
- Three people identified to be in Nominating committee: Chhotabhai, Balgopal, Aradhana
- Aradhana: I want to think about it.
- Kiran: I was thinking about Subbu, Shankar as options.
- Balgopal: Let me withdraw. That way one opening for another member.
- Kiran: One must have some experience.
- K: Aradhana and Balgopal have experience.
- Balgopal: Aradhana.
- Mallu: Let us have 3 people from BOT and 3 outsiders.
- Kiran: Sometimes too many people are hard to coordinate. Let us keep Balgopal, Chhotabhai, Aradhana, and Subbu and then one more person from outside. Maybe from Charleston.
- DISCUSSION
- Reddy: We have a lot people on BOT but many are not coming. I never see people coming for meeting, never volunteer. Why they are on the BOT?
- Kapoor: That is why we need working people.
- Mallu: We have a rule – if they cannot come for 3 meetings then we can take them out.
- Rao: Let me present the cash balance.
  - Bank Balance – \$285,000 as of yesterday – paid IGW but not Ganesh puja expenses.
  - Kiran – it will be around \$2000

- Last pledge with bank balance \$240,000 + \$280,000 = \$520,000
  - Contributions from Puja - \$9,000 [3.7 k was from Life member, previous pledge etc.]
- Balgopal – I am ready to work and everything but I am not willing to Chair the committee. But I will work and as long as I am on my feet, I will give my Unconditional support.
- Mallu: We need someone with experience.
- Aradhana: Can we ask Subbu or Shankar? If they say no then we can decide.
- Balgopal: The puja was an exceptional experience. It was beautifully done. I heard people say that the preparation of the tray and everything was wonderful. [Aradhana: Thanks to Nandini – she came up with the tray idea.]
- Mallu: I can help in the process but I cannot participate etc. I will give you the PP and all the data but I cannot serve on the committee. Procedural questions: myself or Shiv Kapoor will answer.