

Oct 30 BOT Meeting

Members present: Kapoor, Amit Jain, Kaushik Patel, Chhotbhai Patel, Sanjeeva Reddy, Kiran, Aradhana, Subbu, Shravanan, Shankar, Mallu, Raju Perecherla, Pradeep Khanna, Koeli, Nina Tripathi, Balgopal

Dr. Kapoor opens and introduces the business of the first BOT meeting of 2010 and 2011.

Members introduce themselves. All present except Nani Bhowmik and Uma Rao.

- Minutes of Sep 26 meeting distributed. Balgopal moves it, Subbu seconds. Minutes approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

- Kapoor – Nani Bhowmik has sent a proxy vote. We have not heard from Rao.
- Bal – Nominations: This year has been an active year with pujas and fundraising. I personally feel we have been doing as good as any other despite diverse opinions and constituencies and I am impressed with the cohesiveness shown by this board. So, I would like to renominate Shiv, Kiran and Koeli as continuation.
- Subbu Seconds this proposal: I would like to second the proposal just because this is a very crucial juncture and we do not want to try new arrangements at this stage.
- Sanjeeva: Does anyone wants to contest?
- Bal and Kapoor – Someone can contest only once this proposal has been disposed of.
- Shankar: I agree with Balgopal. Good progress. I want this BOT to continue.
- Aradhana: I would like to nominate Raju for treasurer.
- Bal and Kapoor: Not now at this stage but once we have disposed of this proposal.
- Khanna: Should you not nominate each position separately?
- Dr. Kaushik Patel: It is important to make sure that other people on board do not want to undertake these positions.
- Bal: I agree. But first dispose of the motion. If you say you do not want to vote for the motion then go ahead.
- Khanna: Why are you not allowing a fourth member to be added to the slate?
- Kapoor: I am sorry, I did not understand that or hear that. That can be done.
- Bal: And I would go ahead with Aradhana's suggestion.
- Subbu: I would second it.
- Mallu: Over the years they have been individually elected.
- Chhotabhai: If you do this, you do not give opportunity to new members.
- Kaushik: The motion is now vote for the slate. Vote on that. Then move ahead.
- All agree.
- Chhotbhai: My concern: This does not give a new person a chance.

- Kaushik: The motion is that they want to vote for a block. If we want to vote individually, we can move forward and take it after the first motion is disposed of. We should have a discussion on that.
- Kapoor: We are going to ask for those in favor, or against.
- Khanna and Kaushik: We should ask if people want BLOCK voting or not.
- Bal: If you want an amendment of the motion, you should propose that.
- Kaushik: Amendment should distinguish whether you want to vote for a block or for individuals.
- Kiran: Yes means we will vote for the block? Clarified .
- Kapoor: Motion is there. Seconded. All want to vote in favor of amendment or against.
- Khanna and Kaushik: The amendment is: whether we are changing Bal's phrasing of his motion:
 - Amendment: office bearers should be elected individually and not in block.
 - BLOCK or INDIVIDUAL
- Amit: Can we have a discussion on that?
- Subbu: I would like to favor the current block if not in the future. With treasurer added.
- Mallu: I would like to oppose that. We have been with the same team 5 or 6 years. Now BOT has expanded and we would like to bring new people. Let's go individually.
- Kaushik: I would support Mallu. The point is – we want to get the strength of everyone individually. There might be people who we want to give opportunity to for the greater good.
- Bal: There are 17 BOT members but only 5 workhorses. I go for the workers. These 3 people and Raju have given a LOT of work – giving yeoman's service for a long time.
- DISCUSSION.
- Khanna: The issue is not discussing personalities. It is important for a voluntary organization to honor the constitution. We do not want to discuss individuals, it's the principle.
- Kapoor: We go back to the question: YES [vote for individual – 7 Mallu, Khanna, Raju, Nandidni, Chhota, Kaushik, Aradhana] NO [Kapoor, Bal, Koeli, Kiran, Shankar, Shravanan, Subbu, Sanjeeva]
- Discussion: Kaushik and Bal.
 - Kaushik: We want to put a lubricant in the process. I don't think there would be another slate. Seems there is a pressure to continue as before.
 - Bal: You are making perfect sense. But I would fight for consensus – not vote for any particular slate.
 - Khanna: In a democratic process should you not open the process for nomination?
 - Kapoor: We then want an alternative slate.
 - Aradhana: Why not for electing members individually?
 - Kapoor: We just voted for it.

- Subbu: Maybe we should ask for consensus and then move on.
- Raju: There is not a good feeling in the community. This project needs community support. Old people, mainly from the university have been organizing for too long.
- Kaushik: I agree. People should not feel that they are being shut out. There is a little general feeling that people are being shut out. There should be a democratic process where people feel animosity, anger of being shut out. We need to lighten up. The feeling that there are 2 sides. Both sides, relax. Majority has already voted for BLOCK. Beyond that let's move on. As Bal said, there are lot of people in the community but only few are doing the work. We should support that, but we really should not shut out people.
- Raju: We should look to the future for sustaining this project.
- Mallu: No one should suppress if there is any other group who wants to come forward.
- Kapoor: No one should do that. The problem is everyone has their own way of doing it – that should not be the case. Now we need to find a way to bring everyone in. The question now is, we need to have a consensus. Once we resolve the election of a slate and have consensus on whoever is part of the slate we can move on.
- Mallu: There are some new people here – they need to see the consttution and by-laws. Second, we need to avoid opening the floor all the time.
- Kapoor: Where do we stand now?
- Shravanan: The BLOCK is a concept asking for disasters. If there is a team, which is more enthusiastic then we could go for them.
- Shankar: How does it matter who is president. If all of us are committed, we can all work together.
- Kaushik: We need to move on.
- Kiran: I agree that we should not shut out people. By asking for an alternative block we are accepting the principle of inclusion. We should be prepared for whatever the outcome is.
- Kaushik: The next question is: IS there another SLATE or not.
- Subbu, Kaushik: I want someone to raise a hand and say is there an alternative slate.
- Khanna: Our const does not allow for a BLOCK voting. If you want, there are certain ways:
 - One is – 6 people willing to serve. There is a panel of only 4 and you exclude those 6.
- Bal: The claim is that there are the same people carrying on. But there can be several other positions people can fulfil. Chair the subcommittees. Etc.
- Kaushik: Let Aradhana put the motion to revisit the issue of a BLOCK.

- Aradhana: Motion on voting for officers individually is proposed – 8 people “yes” and 7 people “no”.
- Motion:
 - President Nominations: Shiv Kapoor [Kiran] Khanna [Chhotabhai]
 - Kapoor: I withdraw. I have served for 5 years. Let new people do that.
 - Khanna: I am ok with serving the temple and can we put this on the table and take a consensus.
 - Bal: This is what I was worrying that when you do it individually then the battle line gets drawn.
 - Khanna: I want a consensus.
 - DISCUSSION.
 - Kaushik: Let us just put down nomination for all officers. DO a secret ballot and get done.
 - Kapoor: The other thing is: I have worked for 5 years and I withdraw my nomination.
 - Bal: Yes, you are free to do it. But you have done a great job of keeping all the constituent groups together. Now we are at a crucial juncture.
 - Kaushik: AT this point the leadership is needed. If we cannot break disagreements at this point, how can we go to the future? Question: 5 or 10 years from now, is it going to be the same thing? There are a few thousand members, and only a few can be elected and in a democratic process there has to be nominations. To both sides here I say, we are not getting over our differences now, how can we go ahead to the future.
 - Nina: There is clearly politics here. To Kapoor: If there is nomination, and election, 8 people voted for you and 7 did not, still does not mean that you cannot go on. You cannot take it personally.
 - Kaushik: Close ballot. [Subbu seconds]

Nomination Process

- Neena: I would like to re-nominate Dr Kapoor.
- Bal: Let us put all the nominations down and then do by secret ballot.
- [NAMES PUT ON THE BOARD BY AMIT: President: Shiv Kapoor and Pradeep Khanna; Vice President: Kiran; Secretary: Koeli; Treasurer: Kaushik Patel]

Vice president NOMINATION:

- Subbu: I nominate Kiran,
- Sharvanan: I second.]
- Mallu: I nominate Chhotabhai.
- Chhotabhai: I withdraw.

- TREASURER NOMINATION:

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- Chhotabhai: Raju;
- Bal: Kaushik Patel.

DISCUSSION

- Khanna: The President's was the only position up for contest. I withdraw my nomination from the vote but I want to mention that I promise my cooperation. On the understanding that every member is equally important and everyone given a voice.
- Raju: every member is equally important and everyone should be given a voice. People should not feel that we are hiding things. Everyone, even if we gave \$200, should be given importance.
- Bal: I think whatever process went through, I am glad the end results are good. I really appreciate Pradeep's sentiment that he is not withdrawing from BOT and will participate as well. Second: Now Executive committee has 4 members. Sometimes, an odd number is more productive. I suggest we elect a Member at large.

DISCUSSION.

- Raju: We should be transparent, not do anything without knowledge of BOT.
- Shankar: But BOT has to be responsible also and be present all the time.
- Mallu: This new position should go through the General Body.
- Kapoor: We will. We will send an email.
- Motion: We add another person.
- Unanimous: Pradeep Khanna elected 5th member of Executive Committee.
- Kapoor: VOTE: As discussed and on the blackboard do we elect these members.

UNANIMOUS.

PROJECT Construction Report

- Kapoor: We got bids from 7 people. One was high so we have 6 people. We met all 6. They sent us a revised budget after cutting down costs. We gave them the new estimates – average \$1 m. Our budget is \$800,000 and we told them that. We will bring that to the BOT. We have to elect some chairs of the committees. We need to do once a month meeting – Sunday afternoons have been the practice. [Mallu ; Let's keep that]
- DISCUSSION. Sunday: 2.30 p.m. is approved.
- Committees will have to be selected at the next BOT meeting.

MEETING IS ADJOURNED.

