

BOT March 27 Minutes

Members Present: Kiran, Balgopal, Nani, Chhotabhai, Subbu, Sravanan, Shankar, Pradeep, Raju, UmaRao, Sanjeeva, Neena, Koeli.

Members Absent: Shiv, Kaushik, Aradhana, Mallu, Amit.

Community members: Srinivas and Shakuntala Nookula.

Motion to Pass Minutes: Bal [propose], Nani [second]

### DISCUSSION ON FINANCIAL REPORT

Kiran: Money in bank = \$265k

| Cash           | Unconditional loan     | Conditional [To be given only towards basement] | Outstanding pledges |                      |
|----------------|------------------------|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| 259k           | 180k+ 37.5 k = 217.5 k | 100k [88k pending] Chhotabhai                   | 226 k               |                      |
|                |                        |   |                     |                      |
| 3/27/11UPDATE: | \$15k [Neena]          |   |                     |                      |
| \$265k in bank |                        |   |                     |                      |
| 10k            |                        |   |                     |                      |
| 1 k            |                        |   | Less 11k            |                      |
| 1 k [Kaushik]  |                        |   |                     |                      |
| 5k             |                        |   | Less 5 k            |                      |
|                |                        |   |                     |                      |
|                |                        | \$15k Pradeep loan                              |                     |                      |
|                |                        |   |                     |                      |
| <b>\$282k</b>  | <b>\$232.5k</b>        | <b>\$115k</b>                                   | <b>\$220k</b>       |                      |
|                |                        |   |                     | OUTSTANDING NEED = ? |

Neena: Here is my donation of \$10k and I would like to give \$15k as loan.

Rao: I have \$1k cash

Several members report progress on collection.

Pradeep: I have conditional \$10k tied to the 2-level temple.

Kiran: We are meeting on April 10, 2011. We need to have enough detailed information at the time to make an informed decision. Otherwise we will have a tough time deciding on what we can afford.

Neena: I like the idea of having the figures in an organized format or template like Koeli suggested. That way we have a script we can work off of.

Chhotabhai: Can we discuss about each BOT member bringing in \$30k new money in loans.

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Kiran: It was like a challenge which still stands. The reason for the 30k number was because we were looking at a 450k shortfall so we are about 15 people here so that was how we got the \$450k number.

Neena: How much support for 1-level and how much for 2-level?

Kiran: Depends on how much we can convince them. Also, if everyone says we will give you a loan will it work? Can we pull through about \$1mn loan?

Srinivas: Not only that, but we will have to think about the maintenance fees which we have to generate later.

Sravanan: If we follow my plan we can have a temple with basement next month. We can do 3 things: 1. Instead of new money, look at outstanding old pledges. 2. If each BOT member signs up for 10k. 3. Instead of 5000 sq with basement, make 3500 sq.

Bal: We know that a lot of the outstanding pledges were from people sponsoring their IshtDevatas. If you take away the wings for their IshtDevatas, you can forget that money.

Kiran: Let us not go into a discussion on modifying the original plan today but focus on the discussion about collecting funds.

DISCUSSION BY SEVERAL ENSUES ON WHAT IS TO BE COMMUNICATED TO THE COMMUNITY TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER NEW DONATIONS AND RECLAIMING OLD PLEDGES.

Bal: Important is how much new money we can bring in. And we should put to sleep the “loan” concept. We have sold 3 times out the worth of the land we have in securing loans. So **new money** and **hard cash** are the important goals to focus on.

Kiran: When I approached Anil, I told him – what is it that we can count on to make final decisions.

Pradeep: I am confused. Neena summarized v. well. We are committed to temple with basement = 1.2mn. At this point let us stick to one proposal and tell them “this is what we need from you.” I say we put our heart and soul into building a 2-level and raise money for it. Then go back and review what we get and then go from there. I gave money for a 2-level and I feel disturbed if I see basement or one wing or another is deleted.

SEVERAL.

Kiran: We went over these facts a month ago and decision was made to go forward with the plans to collect funds accordingly. This is not a new story.

Pradeep: We have created a new story today. I have complaints about the BOT. We hold our meetings secretly, do not publish minutes and send out decisions to the community. We need to build the sense of community, that culture here. I think we should communicate to the community. The BOT should not go back and reconsider every week.

SEVERAL

Neena: We are not reconsidering. We all want the best temple. There is still the fear, we have come this far and the concern is what will happen if we do not get to build the temple AT ALL.

Kiran: The minutes are posted on the website. We have a target of 1.2mn and at this time need around \$650k.

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Pradeep: I think we have set a very small window of time to raise almost 700k.

SEVERAL discuss April 10<sup>th</sup> or any other specific date as deadline for money collection goal and decision-making on what kind of building plan [1-level or 2-level] to start construction on.

SEVERAL: We have to set a deadline.

Pradeep: I think if we are discussing changing plans, an email should have gone from the BOT to the community.

Kiran: We all had the chance to attend the meetings every 2 weeks. So it is problematic if people did not come for the meetings and then say now that we needed to do something differently in the past weeks.

Bal: Here are 2 members of the general community [Srinivas and Shakuntala] and no one has stopped anyone else from attending if they want.

Chhotabhai: I think the basic problem is communication. The community thinks we are doing lot of things in secret and not telling them.

Pradeep: The issue is we should be communicating more openly, writing to them more frequently.

Subbu: We need to first decide, exactly what needs to be communicated to the entire community. Let us agree on some kind of a communication strategy and tell them very salient points.

Chhotabhai: Select members who paid \$1000 or more and send them ballots.

Kiran: We are here to collect about \$1.3 mn on the temple project. Let us do that first.

Nani: I have here a letter giving some information on these same details. How many followed this letter?

ALL: Let us have a stable communication strategy.

Koeli: I am willing to communicate once a month to the general membership provided we decide on a communication strategy on what to tell them.

Pradeep: We need a communication strategy: 1. Monthly update on financial status, 2. Upcoming pujas and activities, 3. A directory of contact details and to encourage people to share personal data. I will join Koeli and work on the communication plan.

Sravanan: In communication, we should give this information: How much we have raised, on hand; and what's the deficit. And what is the deadline.

Nani: If you want to build temple, we have to start in next 2 months otherwise you can forget until March 2012. I remember we had said we will make final decision by March 2011.

Koeli: Could I have a vote on the communication strategy?

Pradeep: We should give them the figures that Sravanan suggested.

Nani: I do not think we should give them the total money. We must give the total cost of \$1.36MN.

Bal: I have been a member from the beginning. We have had annual general body meetings and the attendance has been dismal.

Nani: Let us summarize.

Pradeep: **Communication should be on the following: Total budget \$1.7 mn. We need \$600k. WE are at \$1.1 mn. And the breakdown is given as the table shown below.**

Kiran: Also we should tell them what is going to happen next. So that they know what will happen if they make that donation today.

Bal: Let Pradeep and Koeli make these drafts and give it to the BOT and we approve it and then that can go out.

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Pradeep: Can we discuss if there is a possibility of a commercial loan?

Kiran: Let us discuss it at the next meeting.

ALL: we should tell people that our goal is a 2-level

DISCUSSION ON COMMUNICATION STRATEGY: TO SEND OUT AN EMAIL EVERY MONTH WITH A BOTTOMLINE OF FINANCIAL REPORT.

Motion ON COMMUNICATION STRATEGY: **Sanjeeva**: Let us draft a communication with the financial figures on the table and send to BOT for approval in 48 hours. They will take 24 hours to approve. Then we can send it out within the next 24 hours. **Nani** seconds it. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### DISCUSSION ON STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION

Pradeep: Can we build a shell?

Kiran: Let us discuss at the Facilities Committee meeting. Let the committees do the ground work and come to the BOT meetings with proposals.

Neena: Let us communicate to general members this is our final push. Here is where we stand and we are looking to you to raise the final amount [for the fundraising dinner].

#### DISCUSSION ON FUNDRAISING DINNER

Sanjeeva: Danville Civic Center charges \$2000 and here in Urbana it is \$800.

Chhotabhai: Last year, the food was not good.

DECISION ON HOTELS.

Koeli: Why don't we approach an Indian hotel-owner and see if they can give us the hotel hall free.

Chhotabhai: My daughter's hotel is in Monticello. She will give it and the anything you guys want in food will be allowed.

ON DATES: April 30 OR May7, 2011.

ON ENTERTAINMENT: Sanjeeva: I can call the people from Detroit.

Meeting Adjourned. Next Meeting: April 10, 2011.

