

May 25, 2011

Members Present: Shiv, Kaushik, Aradhana, Mallu, Kiran, Balgopal, Nani, Chhotabhai, Subbu, Pradeep, Raju, Sanjeeva, Neena, Koeli.

Members Absent: Saravanan, Uma Rao, Shankar, Amit

Community members: Srinivas Nookula

Motion to Pass Minutes: Shiv [propose] Passed Unanimously

Agenda: Responses to the emails and letters sent out to the community

- Kiran presents summary of response to mailing project. 33 responses out of 200+ mails sent out. 23 – Option 1; 10 – Option 2. No one opposed both options. This includes BOT member responses. Money pledged - \$7500.65 [includes \$2000 from previous pledges.] Only one person asked for ALL other options that were available. Since they were included in the PDF, he was satisfied.
 - Option 1 – horizontal
 - Option 2 – vertical [both ground-level]
- Pradeep – less than 10% response from the community is worrisome.
- Kaushik – do we need to downsize the project even more.
- Neena – people have said that “build something and we will give money” I think Option 1 is realistic and people will start seeing progress and start giving something.
- Shiv – we have lost people because so many years have passed and we have not done anything. Now we have reached a place where we can build something and show that this is the best we can do and maintain the project. We should try to voice our opinions, inform the community right away, if we want to go this route, there is still much more to do, but at least we can get started.
- Chhotabhai – It is a much more costly project to do a ground-level up construction.
- Kiran – We have asked the community’s opinion and they have responded and we have to honor that. And we will move forward and tell the community that we need their support. If we sign contract in the next 6 weeks or so, and tell community when the next step is – tell them to stay engaged.
- Boddu – Is the community aware of the requirements of the horizontal expansion, that we need to get zoning board permit for Option 1?
 - Kiran – To build 5000 sq. ft. we do not need extra approvals. Needed only if we exceed 6500 sq. ft.
 - Chhotabhai – I think in the emails we presented in a way in which Option 2 seems to be out of question, so people responded to Option 1. The basement option was not given to the community.
 - Kiran – We gave opportunity to all BOT members to add to the TEXT of the communication. We shared this with the community, it has spoken and it will be a great step if we take their word and move on.
 - Shiv – I think we need to move forward. I would like to make suggestion that we all agree to whatever the majority has said, deliberated on it, and make recommendations to the Facilities Committee to move on.
 - Kiran – all of us need to focus on how to push this forward and collect funds, in the next 6 weeks. If we get into November, again, we will enter a slow period.
 - Chhotabhai – If we ask another contractor, whether they can do it cheaper?

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- Shiv – our goal is not to go to new contractors at this stage but work with the previous contractor and the BOT work as a contractor and them as sub-contractor. The Facilities Committee needs to get to work.
- Kiran – I think everyone in BOT needs to get involved.
- Pradeep – I think the response rate is worrisome. I think we need to reach out to the community and explain to them our problem.
- Shiv – I think we can personally reach out.
- Neena – If we reach out as a united and excited front we might make more progress.
- Bal – I agree with you Neena. Excited – that is something we cannot have hesitancy about, then they will become cautious. We should not be surprised at the low response, I think in previous instances the annual meetings have been poorly attended. The response shows not that they are not interested but they are a little impatient and disillusioned.
- Boddu – in the past when we had 110 members, we did send emails, call and contacted – we had 70% response.
- Pradeep – how confident are we that this \$625k will happen, can we actually complete with that? Can we get the plans done within \$10k?
- Kiran – That figure was given to us by Rajsekhar one month ago. He said plans could be done in 10k.
- Srinivas – when the figure was given, there was a contingency provision.
- Kiran – Rajsekhar's point was that we do not know what will be at the time of building. The costs are relative. Absolute one is within 10%=-/.
- Shiv – I think we are getting a sense here that we would like to let the community know here. I need a motion.
- Bal – So moved. ALL: What? What do you move? [Shiv: based on response we want to move forward on Option 1 and inform this to community and authorize F.C. to start the process with the contractor.]
- Raju – I strongly suggest we approach Rajsekhar for someone competent for the drawings. Get the drawings done and get a quote.
- Pradeep: My only concern is that a situation – the bid is v. high and we cannot go forward.
- Neena : Well if that bid is v. high on Option1 then it will be higher for 2.
- **Bal: Motion: Based on response we want to move forward on Option 1 and inform this to community and authorize F.C. to start the process with the contractor Neena: Seconds. Pradeep: Abstain, Boddu and Chhotabhai: Opposes.**
- **Shiv: I think we have a majority. All agree.**
- Shiv - Lets all come forward and approach the community, lot of work is needed from everyone. My plan of action – to inform community ASAP.
- Nani – As a Facilities Committee representative – when we have to get permit from Champaign County – we go with construction drawing for all 6500 sq. ft. and get the permit all at once instead of Phase 1 or Phase 2 options.
- Pradeep – You have taken community vote on 5072 ft so do not change it now.
- DISCUSSION on how to design the hall, the square footage, the partitions, and supporting walls.

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- Pradeep – Your communication should be: “this is what the community has decided.” ALL agree.
- Boddu: Should there not be a discussion after the motion was moved? ALL: It was already discussed. We had a majority.
- **DISCUSSION on GANESH MURTHIS**
 - Shiv – Mrs. Narayana Rao called and said they had the Ganesha murthis in their house. They are away. I asked Kiran to check with people to find out who will be able to host the murthis. One option – if we are moving ahead – we can ask them if they can hold on for a few more months.
 - Sanjeeva – how about renting a place for the idol. Do prayers every weekend.
 - Nani: It is a very heavy idol.
 - Renting a place is not easy.
 - Sanjeeva – we already saw one close to Annapoorna. \$1500/ month.
 - Kiran – we need to be careful about setting expectations when we rent some place as if we are starting a temple.
 - Koeli: We have a new house and the temple stands separate. You can put the idols there. ALL AGREE.
- **GURU PURNIMA**
 - Srinivas – Guru purnima is on July 14. We can have the Sai Bhajans and prayers. It is on a weekday. Can we ask Chhotabhai.
 - Chhotabhai – I will ask and confirm the availability of the hall.
 - Shiv – I wanted to thank Chhotabhai for all the help in giving us the hall for the weekend prayers.
 - Aradhana – And thanks to Srinivas.
- **Fundraiser – July 30? August 7?**
- **NEXT MEETING – Tentatively third week of July.**
- **MEETING ADJOURNED.**