

## BOT Meeting Minutes December 8 2013

Members Present: Nani, Sanjeeva, Koeli, Raju, Neelu, Kalindi, Rita, Subbu, , Dinesh Chawla, Aradhana, Bala

Members Absent: Raghavendra, Pradeep, Bhargava, Ravi, Amita, Shailesh, Dinesh Singh

### AGENDA

1. Prayer--All
2. Minutes of last meeting—Koeli
3. Treasurer's report--Ravi
4. Committee Reports—Committee Chairs
5. Report on County Highway Hearing, Temple Protocols---Nani
6. Facilities—Awning: Dinesh , Sanjeeva
7. Other facility related Discussions---all
8. Weekend volunteers—all (Sanjeeva---could you please bring the spreadsheet as it stands now)
9. Saraswati Palki travel---all
10. Future Puja and event related activities—Aradhana, Neelu
11. Outside and special Puja ---Sanjeeva

### Meeting Proceedings

- Prayer
- Minutes of past two meetings approved unanimously
- Treasurer's Report discussed (Ravi in India) –
  - Pay off loans
  - Communication on funds: A. Letter to be sent to the entire community – will be drafted by Koeli and Sanjeeva will organize the mailing of these letters by Dec 15, 2013, to individual families. Donation slip to be enclosed. B. Individual creditors to be contacted by Sanjeeva for loan waivers.
  - Letter to HTCSCI – end of year, if you are considering making donations to different organizations, we hope you keep the temple in mind. Many items which are coming up need extra funds. Please donate generously at this time of the year and get tax exemptions.
- Fundraising initiatives
  - Sanjeeva – Operation and Maintenance pledges – Sanjeeva – we have collected \$32000. Remaining from \$50,000 pledged (\$18000) we will have to try to collect. Discussion: The older plan was not fully laid out, so, For convenience and clarity, let us start a new plan.
- Committee Reports
  - Priest Committee – Raju – Sharmaji is confused about not getting pay stubs. We are working on it and consulting the accountant.
    - Is Sharmaji thinking of leaving? Raju – what I have felt, he is happy here.
    - Raju to talk with Sharmaji to prepare a protocol for BOT to do in his absence.
  - Cultural Committee & Fundraising –

- Subbu - Vivekananda Event. Discussion.
- We also need to brainstorm with community to see if they want to do a cultural event.
- New Year or Sankranti events? Decision on having Sankranti after deciding on date with Sharmaji. Perhaps launching a Weekend Food Program.
- Sanjeeva – I talked to Sharmaji – next year he wants to do Vedic classes for children. We will ask for parent volunteers. Trustees with small children can initiate help. Also, how about asking Nandini Topudurti moving her Bala Vihar here. NGB – We will deal with it next meeting. Neelu – There is a Hindi class in town and some of the people are ok with moving the classes to the temple. It is a one-hour class. Parents can be responsible. BOT member has to be present. Neelu to contact Shiv and Rashmi Kapoor to see if it can be moved from their house to temple.
- Vivekananda Night - 2-3 hour program with kid participation and one elder giving a talk. Maybe a small ceremony. Dates could be around – Jan 3 the Vivekananda speaker will be in town; Koeli – We should try to schedule it after UIUC reconvenes after Winter Break. Subbu – it will be better in second week of January to third week of February. We will try to do it Jan last week or Feb first week.
- Discussion on Religious Calendar and Cultural Calendar – Sanjeeva – maybe we can have presentations on diverse topics on Medicine, Philosophy, etc.
- Koeli - Why not we pull from our community – Like Kalindi’s daughters, Rita’s daughters, Raju’s daughter.
- Sanjeeva – we are not raising enough funds in the temple. As a Fundraising Committee we have to get together (Puja, Food, Event) and every weekend something should go on. As far as Pujas in temple and outside: Last month we did very good. One wedding and many pujas – collected close to \$2000. The issue is about outside pujas – on weekends – the timing adjustments have to be worked out so we do not schedule outside Priest visits during temple hours. Outside pujas should not be at the cost of the temple schedule but should be coordinated with it.
- Fundraising Dinner – Maybe in March. Sanjeeva will get a April-March Calendar ready for the dinner.
- Calendar of Events. Raju – From 2014 let us get a Calendar of events. Aradhana and Subbu to coordinate on making a combined Calendar of Events.
- Puja Committee – Aradhana – Ayappa Puja is the only thing we have planned for Dec. New Year is a big day – biggest money-collecting day and we need to develop a plan. Shiv Ratri is the biggest for us – a minimum of 3 years this has been our high-attendance day. Discussion on - All-night Shiv Ratri puja. Koeli – All-night Jagrataa with Bhajans from Sharmaji. Makar Sankranti also approaching. Sanjeeva - We need action from Puja Committee.
- Food Committee – Rita and Koeli to coordinate on organizing a Weekend Food Program/ Fetsival – Food will not be free but we will ask a minimum donation of \$3-10 per box. People can cook and we will box and distribute the boxes and put in the donation in their name. There is a family who wants to sponsor food sometime during the month of Jan 2014. Decision – we will have that food provided on Makar Sankranti.

- DO we have permission to cook food here? NB – we do not have to go very strict on food regulations. But we will do it all according to rules. Krishna Bhowmik will help us set it up.
  - Facilities Committee - Awning – The wind is high so awnings are hard to put up here. Suggestion – ask a builder to do a permanent structure. With a small permit we can add the awning as an additional permanent structure. Dinesh – we will get a permit. Do we have a builder who can work on it? NB, Sanjeeva and Dinesh to have Discussion. We need an enclosure for the thermostat – Dinesh Chawla will buy them and have it installed.
    - NB – Can Sanjeeva and Dinesh make sure we have a contractor to plough the snow. Sanjeeva – we already have someone.
    - Dinesh – Plumber – back room washer dryer – we need \$400. NB – We approved that Facility Committee can spend up to \$2500 for facilities work.
  - Saraswati Palki – Sharmaji idea – Suggestion to start Saraswati palki. It can go from one house to another 11 -3 pm with 1-hour pujas in each house for \$101 per puja on Saturdays. NB – Aradhana and Sanjeeva can you put a 1-page document explaining the plan for this.
  - Sai Baba picture – NB – several people came and talked about making an addition to the existing building with a community hall. Sanjeeva said if someone gives a \$100,000 they can have the Hall named under that person. NB – According to a devotee and he thought it can be done with \$150,000 minimum. It may be anything between \$150k to \$250k. Aradhana – why not we put up the picture and the money starts to flow in. It can be a Hall of Saints – Ramkrishna, Vivekananda as well. NB – if BOT can explore this even before going to the community. I was talking to a community member and he said there might be a family who might agree to donate a big sum. But for that, we need a plan. Let us work on that plan.
  - Koeli – Let us make a committee to explore the extension options and make a plan. Motion – Koeli makes a motion: Let us form a Temple Expansion Committee on ad hoc basis which will come up with a plan by next BOT meeting. All approve.
    - Raju selected as Temple Expansion Committee Chair. Raju to select other members.
- Next Meeting : January 12, 2014 1 p.m.- 3p.m.