

Meeting of the BOT of HTCSCI, Sept.21, 2014 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Attending: Aradhana, Amita, Rita, Kalindi, Koeli, Raghavendra, Dinesh, Nani, Pradeep, Bala, Sanjeeva, and Subhash

1. The right of way proposal by the county offering a compensation of \$1,810 to HTCSCI was accepted unanimously.
2. Fund raising effort summary: Pending final tally approximately \$45,000 in actual and pledged contributions were registered. The dinner ticket sales amounted to about \$12,000, included in the total. Eleven (11) tree pledges of \$300 each were also received. It was suggested by Pradeep and agreed by Board members that the following course of action will be pursued as far as the funds were concerned:
 - a. Out of the outstanding six (6) loans of \$15,000 each, three (3) are being gradually written off by the creditors and converted to donations in their names.
 - b. The remaining three (3) continue to be carried on the books as loans since there are still 2 more years for their term completion. Discussed were options for approaching these creditors to donate the amounts to the temple.
 - c. Proposal was made by Pradeep and agreed to by Board that we start a "Fund" for the Temple Extension project starting with money collected during the Fundraiser 2014.
3. Navaratri: Out of the 9 days the BOT has decided to have "MahaPrasad" on six evenings Sept. 26, 27, 28 and Oct.1, 2, 3. The Prasad will consist of rice-based simple dishes. HTCSCI email is going out to community informing about Navaratri celebrations. Volunteers are sought to provide the MahaPrasad. Sponsors of Puja are welcome. The cost will be \$151 for all 9 days or \$21 for a single day. BOT members were asked to sign up for two occasions- morning or evening.
4. Deepavali day is Oct.23. It will be celebrated at the temple on Sat. Oct. 25. Although Oct.23rd is a Thursday, which is a weekly closed day, BOT will make arrangements for Punditji to remain on duty in exchange for another free day. Sanjeeva will purchase legally permitted fireworks.
5. Events chair: Neelu was the Events Chair. Her replacement Anu has resigned from the Board on a special leave of absence, Kalindi has been nominated as the Chair of Events Committee.
6. Tree planting: Landscaping at the front and rear entrances has been completed and the bench plaza has been established. Ten (10) trees will be planted by Country Arbors on Sept.26. Funds for the tree planting will be handed over to Amita. For the next year, a structure of some kind (a platform or gazebo) is suggested, provided its construction does not conflict with restrictions regarding total built up area, container pond etc. Nani will do the needed research to find out. Estimated cost range is \$3,000 to \$5,000. Amita will prepare sketches or the proposed Gazebo/platform and a specific estimate to make planning easier.
7. Nominating committee: Eligible BOT members Koeli (Chair), Bala, Sanjeeva, Dinesh and Rita have been selected to be on the nominating committee. Two (2) additional members are required to be picked from the general community membership to form the Nomination Committee 2014 which will select the Board of Trustees 2014-2015.
8. Constitutional amendment: It was agreed that the BOT membership should be reduced from 18 to 13, including the past president and the student representative, and to grant voting rights to all the members. The exact wording of the amendment is proposed to be as follows—

“The BOT will be the main HTCSCI governing body, consisting of a total of thirteen (13) members, including the immediate past President, and a Student member. All will be voting members.”

9. General body meeting: The General Body will meet on Oct.26th, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The BOT President will determine the reporting procedure.
10. Advisory committee: Suggestion was made by Nani about a permanent Advisory Committee which would provide long-term advisory support to the BOT and include Past Presidents of BOT. Pradeep was invited to form the Committee as the immediate past president and invite and the eligible community members to comprise the committee. Its prime function will be to train new BOT members and serve as the collective memory of the community effort in the Temple project.
11. It was suggested to open the BOT meetings for community members as observers with the provision that they may provide input at the end of the official part of the meetings.
12. Decision was taken to compile BOT Meeting Minutes and make it available to community members on the HTCSCI website.
13. A brochure with information on how to conduct the last rites after a person’s demise is available in Marathi from the reputed institution “Jnana Prabodhini” (JP) of Pune, India. JP has set itself the mission to educate the society about the essence, purpose and intent behind Vedic rituals. An English translation will be made by Subhash and will be available in case no priest is available and the family involved consents to its use by a lay person from the community. It is back-up provision with no obligations to anyone. In addition, a list of names of priests who do perform last rites and their phone numbers will be prepared. Also, BOT members will make use of a “telephone tree” to inform community members of tragic deaths as needed in order to provide maximum emotional support from the community.
14. Shoes at the temple: Sanjeeva will prepare laminated notices to urge temple visitors to keep their shoes neatly in the racks provided for the purpose.