

HTCSCI EC & BOT JOINT MEETING MINUTES – August 20th, 2016

Time: 4pm

Place: Temple

Minutes Prepared by Neeru Batura, Secretary

Trustees Present

Nani Bhowmik, Balgopal Pallassana, Neeru Batura, Koeli Goel, RK Bhonagiri, Amita Sinha, Kalyansubbu Sundarvelu, Shailesh Patel, VeeraMallu Boddu, B.J. Rao

Rakesh Pandey-Joined late but had initially given proxy to P. Balgopal

Proxies

Kotesh Guntupalli (to B.J. Rao), Kalindi Patel (to Shailesh Patel), Kodanda Rao Uppuluri (to B.J. Rao)

Absent

Pradeep Khanna, Raghavendra Pradyumna, Sriram Chandrasekaran

1. The meeting started with a prayer at approx. 4:10 PM. This is the 3rd BOT/EC joint meeting.
2. **Temple Fundraising:** P. Balgopal informed everybody that for Temple Fundraising, I-Hotel has been reserved, ten tickets each have been distributed to the members and asked members to sell them. Suggested that a gentle push could be given to the donors and to emphasize to them that the temple does not expect the whole amount to be paid at the same time. He also suggested that when sending letters/emails about the cultural center, be sure to say that *it will provide a much needed Tornado shelter along with other benefits.*
3. **Temple Fundraising:** Koeli presented report about fundraising activities as Acting Chair of the Fundraising committee. She also informed the members that Pradeep cannot make it till 5:00 and has asked her to be the chair. Following items were presented by her:
 - Communication team should communicate with the community once every week about the fundraising event coming up.
 - Invitation cards are ready to be sent out to the member families.
 - A person-to-person contact targeted visit has been drafted
 - About the Posters: Poster for the fundraising event has been **posted** at Indian grocery stores and Indian restaurants. Members approved that additional posters can be placed at various places. Shailesh will take the posters to Bombay Market and Bloomington Temple. Mallu will be placing the poster at Peoria Temple. Koeli will take them to Annapoorna. P. Balgopal suggested that the posters be provided to Srinivas V. so that they can be dropped at WEFT. Koeli volunteered to do this.
 - Koeli expressed her concern that the temple website still does not have fundraising poster and plans to remind Kotesh.
 - It was suggested by her that from now till the fundraising event, an announcement be made at every Pooja about the upcoming event.
 - She informed that Sanjeeva Reddy is responsible for the Food for the event
 - Kalindi is in-charge for the decorations
 - Rooms for the artists has been arranged by Shailesh at Ramada Inn
 - Ankita Saha will be performing Bharatanatyam at the event
 - Members were informed that help will be needed during the event

- Koeli suggested that the hall can be rented out for Bhajans, Birthdays, weddings etc. but some space on the wall can be devoted to Patron 'Saints' and asked if the hall can be called 'All Saints Hall'.
- Rao Garu agreed about the pictures of Saints and expressed that it was a very good idea!! He shared a picture from temple in Columbus, Ohio showing a room full of pictures of Saints.

4. **Motion** made by Nanida:

"I move that we designate the new hall within the new Cultural Center as "All Saints Hall" and the donations per Saint (photographs only, 2ft by 3ft) who has already taken Samadhi, will be \$30,000. The Saints name to be approved by the BoT, donations are to be provided by at least 3 (three) members of the community. Regular poojas will not be performed, however celebrations on an annual basis will be the responsibility of the members who nominated the Saints. Bhajans could be conducted as per wish of the nominating members. Maximum number of Saints will be 7 (seven)". Motion Seconded by Amita.

Approvals given by:

- Amita – approved, who also suggested alcoves will also be needed for Ram Parivar, Shiv Parivar, and Lord Ayyappa in the temple. It was decided that the extension committee will take care of it.
- RK – approved if it is limited to 6 to 7 Saints
- Shailesh – approved
- Rao Garu – approved
- Subbu – approved. Stated that it is a fantastic idea!!
- Neeru – approved
- P. Balgopal – approved
- Koeli – approved
- Nanida – approved
- Approvals from Rakesh, Kalindi, Kodanda Rao Uppuluri and Kotesch, since they gave their proxies

Mallu voted against it

P. Balgopal plans to create a sub-committee for the" All Saints Hall" to oversee various tasks.

5. **Election committee updates:** Mallu presented the updates:

- Pradeep Khanna, Mallu and Kalindi sent out letters..
- 3 BoT members and 2 outside from the community will form the election Committee. Election to be conducted in October.
- 2 from the community are Sankar Bhattacharya and Pratap Vanka.
- Some clerical work is needed in the month of Sept.
- P. Balgopal suggested that Mallu sends Neeru an email.

6. **Volunteers needed:**

Nanida requested that help by the trustees is needed at the temple. Neeru to send out a Google docs sheet so trustees can sign up their availability. General suggestion was, three trustees per month should sign up.

Question was raised about – who will open the temple on Thursdays? And that the temple website needs to change and not say that it is closed on Thursdays.

It was informed to the members that cleaning people have been hired by Shailesh, to clean the temple. Sharmaji will decide what day they can come to clean.

Rao Garu and Nani commended Shailesh, his wife Manisha and their kids for coming and cleaning the temple and washing the temple comforters in their hotel washing machine.

7. Treasurer's report:

Shailesh presented the following report:

Revenue:

- Checking Account: \$151,250.33
- Savings Account: \$56,625.00 (Temple Expansion account)
- Money Market: \$24,032.00

Expenses:

- General expenses: \$483.29
- Annual fundraising hall: \$600.00
- Sharmaji's salary: \$1900.00
- Sharmaji's house and health Ins. \$1500.00
- Sharmaji's outside commission: \$835.96
- June/July Pooja expenses: \$928.96

P. Balgopal reminded the members that \$41,000.00 was collected in pledges for the cultural center.

Nanida would like Shailesh to check who has paid for the yearly Pooja and who has not.

8. Security camera:

Shailesh stated that he met with the vendor last month about the security camera. The vendor is going to provide 4 (four) cameras. 2 outside and 2 indoors, a DVR that can record for 2 months. Total cost is for \$2700.00. Shailesh may negotiate some more. Equipment can be kept in the room behind Lord Ganesh's idol.

RK and Rakesh suggested that a monitor be placed somewhere in the temple.

9. Exhaust fan:

Shailesh informed that an exhaust fan measuring 36 inches is going to be installed on top of the south door close to the main Deities.

Motion made by P. Balgopal and seconded by Koeli:

Poojas and Havans (needing the use of ghee) should be performed only by Sharmaji because it is a fire hazard. In case of emergency (in Sharmaji's absence), EC will decide if somebody else should be allowed and if we do, 2 BoT members should be present there to supervise.

Motion was passed.

10. Temple Keys:

Nanida informed that temple keys are in possession with people outside of BoT.

RK suggested that it should be collected ASAP.

Motion made by Nanida to gather the keys from outside of the BoT and seconded by RK

Keys from unauthorized people should be recovered. Names of BoT members carrying the keys should always be recorded.

Motion was passed

11. Temple website password and Email password:

P. Balgopal expressed concern that only one person having password for temple website and email is not acceptable.

Motion made by P. Balgopal and seconded by Koeli

Following trustees must have the temple website password and email password:

- Chair, Executive Committee(EC), Nani Bhowmik
- Vice Chair(EC), Koeli Goel
- Treasurer, Shailesh Patel

- Chair Puja Committee, Jagannadharao Brahmamdam

Also, if the password ever changes, other members must be informed. Kotesch is requested to provide the password etc to the above mentioned Trustees very soon.

12. Navgraha placement in the temple:

P. Balgopal expressed that the temple needs to have Navgraha placed in the temple.

Motion made by Mallu and seconded by Rao Garu: The motion passed unanimously.

This plan needs to be announced to the public. Donations - \$5000 per graha. Donation can be made individually or collectively.

13. Misc. info shared by Nanida:

- Amita planted 12 trees at the temple last weekend. Cost - \$350.00 per tree.
- Trustees have to careful what kind of donation is being accepted by the temple. Example – somebody donated several ‘fitted’ bedsheets to the temple that are not of much use.
- Prabha Polasani has made a handmade king size quilt and she and the Temple are selling the raffle tickets. All trustees are requested to sell maximum number of tickets. Money collected will be donated to the temple.

14. Some discussion took place on making food available at the temple for a donation. But the discussion was deferred to the next BoT meeting.

15. Upcoming Events at the temple:

- Janmashtami – Aug. 24th and 27th
- Vinayaka Chaturthi – starting on Sept. 3rd thru Sept. 11th

16. Next Meeting: It was decided to hold the next meeting on September 11th, Sunday at 3 pm. This meeting will essentially concentrate on the Fund raising activity to take place on 17th September, Saturday.

17. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm