

Minutes HTCSCI Executive Committee Meeting, December 16, 2017

Present: Ramkrishna Bhonagiri, Koeli Goel, Neha Mehta, Kalindi Patel, Shailesh Patel, Jyoti Raju (on phone), Kanan Rangaswamy, Jagannadharao Brahmamdam

Proxies: Nani Bhowmik (Koeli Goel), Jyoti Raju (Jagannadharao Brahmamdam)

Koeli Goel presided over the meeting and asked committee chairs to give a conclusive summary of their activities in 2017.

Puja committee: Puja packages brought \$35,000 to the temple in the past year. Letters will be sent out to puja packet members to continue their sponsorship in 2018. Sponsors set up their own annual calendar.

Facilities committee: R.K. Bhonagiri will chair it in 2018. Contracts for snow removal and lawn mowing (Naturescape) have been renewed. For ceiling patches, leaking doors, and hole in the wall above the east entry, a handyman has been hired. The toilet-roll holders in the rest rooms will be replaced with bigger sizes. Motion detector lights in the parking lot will be installed.

The estimate by Sthapati P. Mallairajan (Mamallapuram, India) is for Sri Vinayaka Silver Ornamental Kavasam is Rs. 5,00,000 and for Shiva Lingam Silver Kavasam is Rs. 3,30,000. Pratibha Polasani had pledged and paid money for this fund earlier. The amount in this fund will add up to \$7500. Shiv Kapoor has pledged \$2500 for Shiva Lingam items. Koeli Goel proposed a motion to approve the Vinayaka expenditure. It was seconded by Shailesh Patel and passed unanimously. RK Bhonagiri has made a preliminary drawing of Shiv Linga and will take accurate measurements soon. As soon as the Board approves those measurements, we will carry on with the Shiva Lingam package.

Food committee: Kalindi Patel reported that in 2017 the Board decided to set up the Temple Rasoi and sell packaged food items one Saturday every month – proposing to start the Rasoi on the third Saturday of January 2018. Members discussed various issues related to food-selling/donating. Kalindi Patel and Krishna Bhowmik are licensed food handlers in Illinois and therefore the temple kitchen can be used for preparing food. R.K Bhonagiri asked about tax exemption for prepared food vs for raw materials only. Shailesh Patel talked about IRS regulations regarding tax credits from food donations and offered to bring in related paperwork for further discussions. Kalindi Patel will form her committee and make a business plan and the goal is to start in early Spring, after getting the approval of the Board.

Mahaprasad will be served on 14 major pujas in 2018 with the help of sponsors. It was suggested that a donation box be kept in the dining space.

Finance committee: Shailesh Patel presented the treasurer's report. The funds for Cultural Center are \$295,954.36; checking account has \$51,752.01; and rainy day account has \$40, 453.34.

Fundraising committee: Koeli Goel reported that the annual fundraising dinner for the Cultural Center will be held on February 24, 2018 at the I Hotel Chancellor's Ballroom. Kalinidi Patel

and RK Bhonagiri will be assisting her in leading the organization of this event. An invitation letter has been prepared and mailed to all HTCSCI members, and tickets will go on sale in January 1. Freedom Festival will be held on Raksha Bandhan day - Sat, August 25, 2018.

Landscape committee: Amita Sinha reported that 19 trees were planted in 2017 and for 2018 the goal is to plant 12 cherry trees to give shade to the parikrama path and to add foliage to the area around the temple building. Trees will be planted in April on the south, north, and west sides only as the cultural center is planned on the east.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: January 1, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Amita Sinha