

Members Present: Kiran, Balgopal, Subbu, Chhotabhai, Umamaheswara, Kaushik, Mallu, Sanjeeva, Nani, Koeli, Amit.

Members Absent: Shiv Kapoor, Aradhana, Sravanan, Raju, Neena, Shankar.

Community members present: Srinivas, Sudhakar

Minutes of the Meeting

Kiran: Sudhakar has suggested that can we start and end the meeting with a prayer. ALL AGREE.

Saraswati Vandana.

Kiran: We will review the minutes and progress for fundraising for the last week.

Discussion: Corrections to the meeting minutes: #4 should be “Base Bid with reduced option,” so it should read as “Option #2A + Basement”

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES: Kaushik & Nani

Mallu: Raju is sick and Mallu will be his proxy.

Kaushik: Primary purpose of the meeting is to know where we are. What progress have we made.

DISCUSSION ON FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Kiran: It’s been two weeks since we took up this special initiative, so we have four weeks remaining. Let members give individual reports.

- Subbu: 15k loan
- Chotabhai: 50k loan by Me and Mallu towards \$188k
- Kaushik: 1k loan and possibly some more.
- Mallu: standard written material that should be present at all meetings so we could share with those outside, for use of fundraising. It’s a communication script so that whenever BOT members communicate with the wider community, we speak in similar language and give them the right numbers.
- Sanjeeva: Community is not giving.
- Kaushik: There is a feeling to move forward. The question is there are four options [Discussed in previous meeting and mentioned in the Minutes] realistic. The cost is going up.
- Nani: I talked to a few people and no one committed. They want to see something done. If we start digging, they will come, but we can’t unless we have cash. Possibility is 5K conditional that we start to build the temple.
- Sudhakar: When you start your fundraiser, you should start with a prayer so they feel they are raising themselves. Also, why can’t we go on a loan for that amount of 7k for 200 families gets us to 1.4M. Then we can start to contribute towards the loan.
 - DISCUSSION on the use of prayers. We should not sensitize people by our overzealousness and likening us to Jehovah’s Witness proselytizers.
 - Sudhakar: Everything is a prayer. You don’t have to have a ritual, but something sweet that elevates the status of the person.
 - Mallu: Prayer should be selective to the party we are visiting.

- Srinivas: 15k loan, 7.5k loan, and some loans from other family members
- Bal: All people in Urbana we have contacted have given, so I went back to four of them. None were willing. We want a temple to pray. Start it, whatever we can afford it, we will give it.
- Kaushik: We have to pay attention. 1) This project is perceived to be only for a few people, so we have to be sure we do not annoy them. 2) 140k spent has been perceived as an expenditure that is not very valuable. Therefore, the community is not going to give because they have not seen the direct results. 3) We have to be sensitive to people's sensibilities before we go and pray to others before asking for donations. Also, none of these options [Ref: Previous meeting minutes.] are realistic. We do not have 1.4 or 1.45M to spend. So, we have to start something small even though the idea of the perfect temple is much more appealing, we are not able to approach it unless we make some movement. Even if it is towards a smaller project. We have to start with something small. We need to get the community members in the door. We have to get the younger members feel this is their project. We can look to more coming in and build on that.
- Chotabhai: 80/20 rule, 20% of people pay 80% of the cost.
- Sanjeeva: The 188k is not cash, it is loan?
- Kaushik: All we can rely on is the cash on hand or three quarters of the pledges. It doesn't matter where we get the loans.
- Bal: The \$188k is not a cash donation, but a loan. I really do not think we can start digging with so much liability on our head. A large loan is frightening.
- Mallu: Chotabhai will take responsibility of 188k. We will prorate it on the loan.
- Subbu: Let's measure simply in cash received, cash pledge, and loan received and loan pledged.
- CONCLUSION: Kiran: The sum total of today's members' report is that \$37.5K real loan has been secured as we gather from the discussion today.

DISCUSSION ON Initiative: Asking the community to sponsor separate items, features of the temple. ALL AGREE

DISCUSSION ON NEW INITIATIVE:

Kiran: I would like to introduce Srinivas' effort in trying to bring in a new idea. 1) Let's seek a community member instead of a commercial builder to work on this temple. So we can get community involved. 2) That person might not charge anything or very little. They are not charging their time or profit, then it will be much less than any community builder can do.

Srinivas: I have a friend, Rajshekar. Rajshekar wants to be with the community. He will not take the money, but he will provide the subcontractor. It's a community project and we will all do it. The builder project profit margin is about 10%, so we save 100k on a million dollar project. We may get some more savings. The board will be the general contractor and the board will have to take the liability.

Koeli: Is his name Rajshekar Pathuri? 1) He is building my home. 2) I give him 100% approval and my referral, but he is still building my house. Also, I think his business is with one of our BOT. Is there a conflict of interest in these situations?

Kiran: No, because the person is providing his services personally. Rajshekar is providing his expert services.

Bal: Suppose the person signs a contract, will they cover the liabilities?

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Nani: If it's a community project, then HTSCI is the general contractor. Then HTSCI will have to take liability insurance.

Kaushik: The contractor will be an agent of the society. Raju asked him to do it. But that was when he was a commercial builder. There has been a lot of history here that we need to examine, so we can prevent the same mistake from happening again. Even if we save 100-150k, we will have 1.25M, so still none of these options are feasible. Also, if we get loans, how are we going to service the loan? We have to consider alternate options. The size of the project we have now, do we truly need that size?

Subbu: Please think over before asking for a contractor to volunteer.

Bal: The paid contractor has some advantage over a volunteer. The volunteer can leave. It has never gone without having problems. We have a very generous offer. What happens if there is a difference of opinion?

Amit: Just to point out the difference between volunteer and paid contractor.

Kiran: He will act as an agent to find subcontractors.

Kaushik: An individual was first willing to be part of a project and then was not. Let us not turn them away.

Mallu: If we can cut down 100k without having to sacrifice risk, that's fine. We should consider this option.

Koeli: Rajshekar is making things happen, so he has a lot of credibility.

Bal: I do not know this man. I have no idea who that man is. So whatever comments I made, I made in good spirit without any prejudice to anyone specific.

Mallu: He saved us 5k for roads.

Kiran: We will work together and this is just the beginning but I want to make sure we share this option with you.

Nani: Looks to me, we should go step by step. We still have 3-4 weeks to see what money we have to get. 2) Do we go with same or reduced size? 3) Can we move with money we have, not loans, etc.? 4) This is a public building, so the architect has to sign on it. We have to keep in mind that we have to have it.

Bal: I really think the energy for this meeting was not this. We have not gotten anywhere. Let's do this for 6 weeks and not get sidetracked. Because of these new dynamics, this has been side-tracked. Let's keep this fundraising thing going on a momentum. Let's keep it as a momentum with Kaushik, Chotabhai, and Mallu. This is a new agenda item and we cannot spend more time.

Kiran: We did ask for the fundraising issue and this was an extra item on the agenda. We have to continue fundraising as well.

Kaushik: We are not likely to raise significant money in the next four weeks. The option you bring up is valuable.

Bal: We should take four more weeks to see what the fundraising will bring.

Kaushik: We were looking to have another dinner in March, but we are deferring it till we have a plan. In the near term, we need to make a decision.

Amit: What is our goal for the next four weeks because I wanted to contact the parents of students.

Kiran: Our focus for the next four week is to raise the fundraising. Contact Kaushik Patel for more information.

Kiran: Next meeting is a week from tomorrow. March 13th. Meeting is adjourned.