

Members Present: Shiv Kapoor, Kiran, Aradhana, Balgopal, Chhotabhai, Kaushik, Sanjeeva, Koeli.

Members Absent: Sravanan, Raju, Pradeep, Neena, Shankar, Mallu, Pradeep, Rao, Nani, Amit.

Community members present: Srinivas

Motion to Pass March 5 Minutes with minor corrections: Kaushik, Sanjeeva. PASSED.

DISCUSSION: Financial Report

Kapoor: In bank : \$289k [Includes 30k loan amount from 2 people]. We had received around September 2010, 12 loan commitments of 15k each; two of those loans have been paid, 10 remaining, including Chhotabhai. So we have 10 outstanding loan pledges of \$150k:

Kiran-Nandini Topudurti

Sanjeeva-Padma Reddy

Goels

Subbu

Srinivas Nookula

Narayan Ganpati

Venkat-Uma Sekar

Brahmanandan Rao

Mangesh Pardesi

Chhotabhai

- Kapoor: Other pledges are very unsure because many have left town. If we could claim all the loans there could be \$200k but since some have left, if we claimed all the rest, we could get \$150k
- CORRECTION ADD KIRAN
- **So, we have reliable finance of \$650k.**
- Chhotabhai: 3 loans towards \$188k [10k C-U + 25k Chicago; 15k Shailesh C-U = Total 50k]
- Kapoor: A] If we can get pledges from people who are promising to give once we start the temple. If we can get that pledge once we promise them that WE WILL START at the earliest. That way we know how much money will come once we start. B] If everyone in BOT decides to do \$30k loan. If you are paying one loan now then you can get one community member to pay the rest of the \$15k. If you are not paying any loan now, you get 2 community members.
- Sanjeeva and Kaushik: We do need to figure out how and when we are going to pay back.
- Kapoor: As long as we are not taking \$2 mn from this community and stick to 500k, if we do not stretch too far, we can start this project.
- Kiran: We have to be careful. We have said publicly that we will give money back in 5 years and we have to be ready to give it back if people ask for it. Let us not make assumption that someone will waive their rights to ask for the money back.
- Bal: During fundraising dinner when the loan issue crystallized, there was some discussion of land as collateral, that is, these people will have 1-acre plots. If we go above 500k, we are going above our assets for collateral.

- Kapoor: I agree with Kiran. If we can get half of the money from the land as collateral, then we have to pay only 300k to pay back.
- Bal: We should seriously think about the temple funds in terms of hard cash pledge for specific Parivar deities. 8 or 10 people can sponsor, example, Murrugan deity [from Tamil Sangam]. If we can get that impetus going.
- DISCUSSION ON funds; community outreach; accountability
 - Sponsorship of different items in the temple by different communities: e.g. Tamil Sangam, Bengali Association
 - Value of cultural center as opposed to only temple
 - Value of hard cash collections/ pledges as opposed to loans. Suggestion from Bal: we cannot overextend ourselves without hard money, only with loan. But loan should not exceed 40-50%. If it is going to be started at April 1, in phases etc. what is the money we need to start for whatever phase. Start focusing on cash MORE than any other loan.
 - Creating greater opportunities for people to take ownership of the process, results, outcome. [Kiran]
 - Approaching different constituencies for support [several]:
 - Second generation community members: Bal: I have a list of second generation people in this community. They are saying, if we have to approach people, we need a specific date when you guys will start.
 - Provena doctors: Out of a total of 50, only 4 or 5 have given some money. Even if they give only a small amount we can make a progress. We must make an attempt to look for and approach these people.
 - University staff and faculty: There are several new faculty members and tenured associate professors. We need to have 4 hours of consolidated time where we go through these names and people take responsibility in dyads and go to these people.
 - Community outreach through personal contact & door-to-door canvassing. [Koeli]
- DISCUSSION ON BASIC SIZE OF TEMPLE FACILITIES. SEVERAL.
 - Kaushik: I have looked at the list of doctors – its not really updated and there are many people from Danville in it too. Many of these people are not religious. We have been discussing these same things for many past instances. We cannot assume that there will be a sudden influx of cash. We need to figure out what we are going to do without that. Important: They want us to build, but build small, something which will allow social events, prudent about how we use the money, expectation that we are going to get money is limited.
 - Kapoor: So what is the solution?
 - Kaushik: Let us look at a BASIC model. The cheapest model – 850k and at the same time, then present this to them and use that to keep raising funds.
 - Kapoor: We have discussed this for a long time. All these debates have gone for a whole year. We keep trying to find a way how to satisfy all the requirements. The base plan is 1.71mn.
 - Kiran: When we talked to Rajsekhar and we gave him the 5000 sq ft structure. He is working on if he can do an affordable plan for it.

- Kapoor: Possibilities of reducing the structural expenditure for Indianization?
- Srinivas: We are looking at 750k as the starting figure to start building. We are looking at the actual drawing of the structure. The costs are increasing. Our plans are exact replica of St. Louis temple structure. I was questioning why we need so much iron and concrete all around. It is because there was Indianization of walls – so as to carry the lateral loads the sthapati has designed in such a way. If we forget the iron bars it will be cheaper. To change, Raja has to consult structural engineer, but that takes money for consultation.
- DISCUSSION ON alternatives to come back to an affordable price within a specific timeline:
 - Kiran : By beginning of April we should be able to make an informed decision – whether we are going to get 100k or 200k or what? No longer potential, but to a confirmed number.
 - Kapoor: In 2 days I will send my projection in categories – certain pledges, uncertain ones and no shows. Our goal should be 30 k per person. We need an item list of sponsors. Let us close on this note: Combine 2 lists - the list of items needed and the list prepared by Sanjeeva earlier. Then we send this to all board members, review this and make a final list.
 - Bal: I am a major sponsor for the Murrugan parivar but I am very skeptical. The list is pragmatic when it includes all the items BUT the moortis. Maybe the borewell, or the door, windows, etc.
- DISCUSSION on Fundraising Dinner
- Bal: If the Fundraising Committee brings a number of 10 people – that they will pledge \$10k each. You announce that at the dinner meeting which becomes a contagious effort. Is there a potential?
- Kaushik: Frankly, no. This is not the first time, you have done it multiple times. There are a small number of people who have given much, some have given some, and many have not given. We can expect some will give us more, but realistically, not a huge amount of money is coming in.
- Bal: Then what is the use of all this item list etc. If as fundraising chair you think not much cash is coming, then why do this? As Koeli says, the only way we can get the pulse of the community is only from personal contacts door-to-door.
- Kaushik: Find from Rajsekhar what is the realistic figure we have to work towards. We need that number, and once we decide on that, and finding a realistic plan to do that, we can go ahead and see how much we can personally sponsor or approach other people. We need a concrete plan.
- Aradhana: I thought we decided 500k is what we need a few weeks ago.
- Kiran: Let us review that; Cash, loan, later expenses, maintenance. Let us go full swing to get as much money as we can get, in the next 3 weeks and then we go from there.
- Kapoor: It basically boils down to the money. You got to take some risks – but something we feel comfortable with.
- Sanjeeva: What about the fundraising dinner?
- All: Let us decide how much we need and then we plan it.

- Bal [and several]: That is what I was saying, if we have 10 people who are willing to give 10k each. Then it is 100k which we can announce at the fundraising dinner that we have this. Then we can have a great dinner. Let us have a concrete plan and then have it. We can book facilities and work on it but let us wait for making concrete plans.
- All thank Chhotabhai for providing facilities for weekly prayers on weekends.
- Discussion on CASH BOX [hundi] to be put in at puja and prayer activities.
- MEETING ADJOURNED. NEXT MEETING MARCH 27, 2011.