

BOT November 20, 2011

Members Present: Kiran, Pradeep, Shiv, Bharati, Raju, Koeli, Kalika, Srinivas, Sanjeeva, Chhotabhai, Nani, Subbu

Members Absent: Balgopal, Anil, Saravanan, Umamaheswara, Amit, Veera

Agenda

1. Prayer
2. Review and approve the last BOT meeting minutes
3. High 5s (aka things we have done well)- I suggest that we try this so that we start the meeting with positive mindset.
4. 4. Committee reports (committee membership formation status, accomplishments, plans for the rest of the year, etc.)

Meeting opens with Prayer.

- Recognition for good work –
 - to Bharathi and Srinivas for doing the Rudrabhishekam during the Kartik month – at a short notice. Thanks also to Chhotabhai for providing the venue.
 - Anil has done a remarkable job – designed the Committee sign-up form. We want to make that link part of all the emails which go out from the HTCSCI.

Discussion on New Membership and Committee composition

- Raju – The new members and their tenure. Subbu – all the tenures are for 1-year terms. It was already there in the PP showing the vacancy. Kiran – also mentioned in the General Body meeting minutes. We should have concluded with the membership and breakdown of their terms. Pradeep – the information should be somewhere on the website.
- Srinivas – we have 8 or 9 committees – it should be limited to 5 or 6 members. Otherwise coordination becomes a big problem for calling meetings etc. . Pradeep – I think that makes sense except the fundraising/ membership committee. Kiran – at this time we do not have a problem with too many members signing up. There are fewer than a greater number. We want to make open access to most members. Nani – other side of the coin: we have lot of difficulty getting people to volunteer. SO if we have people opting to serve in committees we should accept them. If we have too many people we can always make subcommittees. Kiran – if we run into the situation let us leave it to the discretion of the Committee Chairs and try it without restrictions for one year. If it does not work then next year we can initiate restrictions. Subbu – If there is difficulty in getting attendance then the Committee Chair can set the quorum. Sanjeeva – in my committee I need more people. I can communicate with everyone.

Committee Chair reports

- **Membership & fundraising – SANJEEVA: Discussion on members and change of status based on contributions..** Pradeep – we should not count annual membership; or puja archana/ pranami; towards any change of status. The only kind of contribution we should add are bigger amounts towards situations like building a well etc.. Kalika – what is the incentive towards going to the next higher level? Shiv – the only incentive is based on how BOT is constituted and who contributed how much. Several BOT comes from these categories. I don't know any other incentive. Sanjeeva – once we have the temple – incentives – maybe gold members – 2 prayers for them annually, etc. Shiv – we have set a system of recognition – like a plaque in the temple. Kiran – right now we do not have

anything specific in name. Sanjeeva – should we do a new form? Pradeep – Our target is to raise the next \$.25 or \$.5 million. **Kiran – we do not need to discuss the mechanics and details of fundraising or any committee functions in the BOT meeting. The committee chairs have the power to change the form and other details. After that we can review the work of the committee. In BOT meetings let us focus on the big things.** Raju – I suggested a long time ago – let us open a simple mailbox. Someone can go once a week and collect the mail. Nani – we need to think about this – I don't think for the temple we can just have a mailbox – we have to have an address. Kiran – Sanjeeva can pursue it with the Post Office and get back to us.

Sanjeeva – I want to do the fundraising dinner – target is \$300,000 – not pledges but CASH donations. Plus collect 50% from the pledges.

Nani – Kalika and I discussed with a physician from Carle, Dr. Ray – he said there are many from medical professions who go to Chicago for religious functions and we should aim at pulling them into our HTCSCL. If we had a membership brochure – summary of everything there – summary of everything we have, basic information, what is our goal, line drawing, showing location of temple it would be useful in reaching out to this segment.

Plan for Kalika and Nani to coordinate with our contacts among Carle physicians to meet the BOT over tea and then chalk out a plan to reach out to these bigger group of physicians.

Kalika – end of year distributions come towards this time so this is the time when we can catch up with them. Raju – I might have the old brochure – I can send it to Sanjeeva. Kiran – If Media and Communication and Fundraising committees if we could work together and create something very quickly. Raju – I might have this brochure. Shiv – I have a copy also which I might be able to search for. [Plans made to send brochure material to Koeli for a Brochure by December first week: Let Raju and Shiv to send the documents to Sanjeeva and Koeli.

December 10 – **Meet in Danville to discuss the updates on temple and fundraising effort.** Let us work on it to get it by December 2. Srinivas - Only meeting or combine it with a puja or some prayer service? Pradeep after the brochure is done – we should do a nice email – “year-end, please contribute”.

Kiran – how do we think about fundraising since we have not had much luck from communities like Danville, Charleston. Geographic as well as professional groups too,. Now we are thinking of a potluck dinner. Whether puja or simple presentation. I talked to people in Charleston-Mattoon – he does not get email from the temple. I asked from him if we could include them in the temple. We need to identify structures to identify several people. Like AMDOCS have at least 150 people only 20-25 come to our people. We need to reach out to several people there and get them involved. Multiple targets. Every BOT members should seriously consider volunteering in 2 committees on 2 committees at least.

March – Musical night in I-Hotel. Decision to start planning way ahead of time.

Pradeep – we should distribute membership list to the entire BOT organized by the level-of-contribution. Kiran – there is also an email list – we should all review it to see who is really getting the information.

- **Puja – BHARATI:** we met with Srinivas and Kalika – **PLANNING:** what we need to do for next 6 months. **Most people want bi-monthly pujas. In that, one will be bhajan-type, other one more special puja depending on what comes in that month. Bhajan – mainly on Saturday evenings. Only for 1 hour, light Prasad, fruits.** I talked to Radha Nandkumar – she said she will wait for January, we will know at that time if she will be able to lead the bhajans. Special pujas – strictly to 2 hours, if it goes more than that, we cannot help it but we have to work around that. The food – as simple fare. Kalika: About a year ago a priest from Peoria temple said there is a gentleman, who had accreditation and can start doing part-time work. Why can't we engage someone on part-time basis – once a month. With different members footing the bill from individual sponsorship covering the expenses. Shiv – the problem is that we are given that premises due to Chhotabhai but he has plans

to demolish it by April. So we have to be mindful about that. After that we have to go for the community center, Urbana Civic Center – and blocking the place on their calendar. DISCUSSION. Raju – come up with a structure and we can ask for volunteers to sponsor in advance. Bharati – from previous experiences – there are not many people to volunteer so we have to require BOT members to come forward. **Kiran – Puja committee is not expected to do it out of your pockets. Let us identify major events like Shiv Ratri and then there are smaller pujas and draft a schedule of pres-assigned sponsors – I am expecting a overall plan and protocol. Bring it to us and let us decide as a BOT.** Bharati – I will come up with a structure – for the next 4 months. We can have it in the pamphlets. Let us put the costs in the pamphlets. Pradeep – let us have a sponsor list in advance. Shiv – idea is to have BOT as a default. Let us have the schedule.

Bharati: Another thing – most community members – ladies are not reading the emails because of their frustration with the long time that HTCSCI is taking to build the temple. We have to reach them so that they can participate. You have to send the email reminders. Pradeep – can we do a phone tree. Let us take 10 members per BOT member and call them. Shiv – If the Puja committee has 8 members, they can call the people. **Kiran – all committee chairs know the people who volunteered, please take a time to communicate with the community members and build a personal contact and community of those committees.**

- **Website and IT –**

- Kiran – communication with Anil – around 540 email addresses and 220 members. Asked Anil to collate and coordinate the 2 lists and make a link which the community members can sign up on that link and we can then include them in the email database.

- **Administration & Rules**

- PRADEEP - Responsibility of BOT members, committees.
- Conduct of meetings – should I find the old rules and instate a system to manage conflict and also that every section of committee get chance. [Agreed]
- Minutes on website – Srinivas – can we reduce the time? Koeli – Send the minutes by next Saturday to entire BOT; if we do not receive response by 48 hours; Post it on Web. Kiran – I will take the responsibility for the final result. Srinivas – she writes a lot. Do we put everything in the minutes. DISCUSSION. Nani – It is a lot of work for Koeli doing the minutes and it is done very well. Let us not put any more work on her. Pradeep – When you send out announcements – mention location and time of BOT meetings. Community members should be informed of the upcoming BOT meetings.

- **Cultural Activities –**

- SUBBU - **More or less Puja Committee is on focusing on religious functions, not necessarily religious discourse. If not, then Cultural Activities Committee will focus on other cultural aspects.** If yes, then **would you like to change your name to Religious Committee?** Our plan - will have a cultural calendar; I want to see us focus on Bal Vihar. **Kiran – the reason we started this Cultural Committee – we were told our activities are not engaging the youth. This is so as to draw the younger generation. We will leave it to you designing the activities. We need to show some action. Pradeep – importance of religious discourse is important to adults too. We can do with community members as well as invite speaker.** Even after the pujas – a 5-minute discourse – what is your duty? Etc. We should brainstorm about it. Shiv – The Chinmaya Mission has such a program format. We can work on patterning something like that. Subbu – we can start laying the groundwork – so that when the facilities are there we can just sit around there and discuss life thoughts. What is the Mahabharat after all? Kalika – I think it is a wonderful idea. For

example – my son – has not incentive for the puja only. But they get bored. We do not cater to their needs at all. Pradeep – can we do some homework locally, are there people in the community who will be willing to talk about that? Subbu – I have already recruited Kalika. We can do 3-step and we can send out email. Raju – I would like to see if we can set a schedule for such discourses. Sanjeeva – we can ask the Chinmaya Mission people to come.

- **Major Event coordination**
- **Media & Communications: KOELI**
 - **Inter-committee communication – Committee reports to be sent by Chairs to Media & Communication [copies to BOT]**
 - Srinivas – subcommittees – can be sent to BOT
 - Raju – Chair to send to Koeli and copy to all
 - Kiran – can we do one monthly communication. We need to do the newsletter or it will come in January. Or just an email. I think electronic communication is sufficient.
 - **Pradeep – 2 pujas a month – therefore, 4 emails [10 days and 48 hours before event - sent by Media & Communication, and put in information on whatever else is going on;**
 - **4 newsletters – putting in Annapoorna, a Hindu shloka;**
- **Facilities – NANI**
 - We are trying to get the final engineering drawing done by next 2 weeks. Srinivas, Kiran, and I are working with Raja. He promised he will get the real number. At that time the subcontractor should be able to give us a close estimate of the final costs. **By middle of January we can get everything ready and approach Champaign County for approval by end of January. Then we can start construction by April.** Kiran – we were supposed to meet IGW by Nov 13 but they were having some problems with the mechanical part. Issue – the well part of it – We got one estimate from Kickapoo Water. Acc to Raja – cost – \$35-40,000. Once we have an address, we have to get a permit from Champaign County Public Health Dept. Design came from the Illinois State Water Survey (UIUC) who keeps all the records to do with ground water. According to State of Illinois if you are drilling a well you have to intimate them. So they have records for the past 100 years. We will proceed accordingly.
- Meeting adjourned. Next meeting Sunday December 18.