

BOT Meeting October 20 2013

Members Present: Nani, Aradhana, Sanjeeva, Koeli, Raju, Neelu, Bala, Dinesh Chawla , Rita, Subbu, Bhargava, Ravi, Raghavendra

Members Absent: Dinesh, Pradeep, Kalindi, Amita, Shailesh (Neelu has proxy)

AGENDA

1. TEMPLE TIMINGS
2. Navaratri Review – NGB gives overall review. Aradhana – this elaborate puja is not sustainable. We need outside contractor to help Punditji. Neelu – Several community members came forward and spent a lot personal time and energy. We should scale it down. This was v. elaborate. If we can organize things better. By next year we can be more experienced. NGB – Koeli and I are facing the same issue for the Bengali group. We want outside contractor to help. We should consider getting someone to help in cleaning. Sanjeeva – we get help from Joe – for heavy things. Neelu – next time we need to make a committee. Aradhana – everyday he was here till 1 or 2. He never came to open at 8. YOU cannot expect. He needs an hour for Ganesha abhisheka – maybe we can cut it out during Navaratri. Rita – the first and last can be elaborate ones and other days we can tone down. Raju – This is the first year. these are good points for next year. NGB – we have a few committees. All committees are involved. Neelu – one month before every event we should plan. NGB – he is very creative. Raju – I have only heard praise for the priest. NGB – We all need to do our part. Neelu – Neighbors called the cops because lights were on till after 10 p.m. NGB – The impression – “some Arab country people are coming here and building a building here.” Bal – Cutting short pujas – how can the mantra be cut short? All – let us start on time. Have fewer events. Safety of devotees – Rita – can we put some sensor lights? NGB – we have a short cut off time.
3. Plan for Karwa Chauth – small event. No elaborate puja or Prasad.
4. Plan for Diwali – NGB – it could be a major celebration. We need to send an email to community. Sanjeeva – Sharmaji said we can do Abhishek in morning but main event 4-6 in the evening. Aradhana – it would be nice to have some lights. Sanjeeva and Koeli – we are already arranging.
 - a. Diwali – 4-6 p.m.
 - b. Sweets –
 - c. Fireworks – sparklers
 - d. Lights
 - e. Diyas
 - f. Mahalakshmi Puja
 - g. Fruits and Flowers
 - h. Prasad – Sharmaji wants to cook Prasad. We will let him. Outside people are not going to bring Prasad.
5. Weekend Sign-up for all BOT members. Guest book – for all visitors to the temple.
6. Treasurer Report – Monthly report to BOT. Quarterly report in detail.
7. Financial Report

- a. Raju – Let them fill up a form with name and what puja and what amount and put in the hundi. Ravi and NGB – Put sign there “ask for receipt.”
 - b. Sanjeeva - Outside puja – Naidu’s check is missing. Raju – issue with people who pledged or loaned money – they do home pujas and not pay.
8. Sai Baba Palki - NGB – we need some kind of a protocol to host different groups and their deities/ saints. Aradhana – I suggest we do it. And also we put a picture of Shirdi Sai Baba on the north wall here. NGB – Radha has said they are prepared to make a donation if they have to to the temple. Discussion on hosting Sai Baba Palki.
9. General Issues – Raju –
- a. Priest issues – Protocol of how the priest should be handled. Evryone is telling him things and he does not know what to say or do.
 - b. Committees – Full-fledged committees, good chairs. Committee Chairs - we should not get into problems like we did last year or two. Let them do their job. Let us plan 3-month ahead festivals. At least a month in advance the first email must go out.
 - c. Temple premises – will not be given free for anybody. Lot of new people. Neelu – people are saying, we are there only to take money from them. Raju – are we bugging them? Neelu – they are complaining. Neelu – should we say – at least \$1000 per family and everything is free.
 - d. Community Information – let us refer all questions to one person.
 - e. Emails – Please do not send unnecessary trustees email.
 - f. Treasurer Committee formed – Ravi (Chair) – Co-Chairs: Sanjeeva, Bala.
10. Bala – Trustees’ information – on website – the trustees email. Raju – IT and Treasurer should have more than one person who knows the password and the admin access. We learnt a lesson from the one-person treasurer thing. At elast 2 more people who should have the information.