

Minutes of HTCSCI Trustees and Ad Hoc Committee on Temple Planning and Expansion Meeting, April 14, 2018

Place: Temple

Time: 3 pm to 5:30pm

Present: Pallassana Balgopal, RK Bhonagiri, Nani Bhowmik, Veera Mallu Boddu, Jagannadharao Brahmamdam, Koeli Goel, Naresh Goel, Govindjee, Mahesh Gubba, Shiv Kapoor, Neha Mehta, Raghavendra P. Pothukuchi, Jyothi Raju, and Amita Sinha
Proxy: Kannan Rangaswamy to RK Bhonagiri; and Kalindi Patel to Neha Mehta

The minutes of the March 25th meeting of Trustees and Extension Committee were passed unanimously.

Pallassana Balgopal moved the motion that annual reports of all committees be sent to Rakesh Pandey for uploading on the HTCSCI website. It was seconded by Nani Bhowmik and passed unanimously.

Nani Bhowmik announced that the Architect Andrew Fell is preparing the site plan of the Cultural Center to apply for Champaign County Permit. He handed out copies of the revised first floor and basement plans of the proposed Cultural Center. The following points emerged from the discussion.

Attempts should be made to make the Cultural Center self-sustaining. Present balances are: Cultural Center about \$350,000 plus pledges; Operational expenses about \$90,000 subject to some adjustments due to final accounting; and Rainy Day funds about \$45,000.

Main Floor

- The main east facing door of the Cultural Center should be of steel, painted to look like wood.
- There should be an awning over the north door in the vestibule and east door on the main Cultural Center.
- Green room should be in north east corner, next to the elevator. The performing stage should be portable and placed according to the needs of the performers and audience.
- In addition to the three skylights, a fourth skylight over the staircase should be considered.

Basement

- The space next to the elevator can be a multipurpose room—office/nursery.
- Restroom doors should open sideways.
- The space between restrooms and kitchen should be redesigned. Possible options are: one of the two sump rooms and wash basin.
- The kitchen should have a pantry.
- The main hall can be divided for two simultaneous classes by a partition (with a door). The architect should be asked whether a longitudinal partition be better than a lateral one.
- Wiring for ethernet, sound system and lighting should be considered.

Groundbreaking should be done before July 10, 2018; a General Body meeting should be held two weeks before groundbreaking for which notice of 10 days should be given.

Amita Sinha presented a revised sketch by Annapoorna Halepatali of the temple alcove based upon discussion with Priest Sharmaji, Pallassana Balgopal, and Christopher Goodnight. There is space for seven deities in 21' length. 30" depth of alcove is needed so that there is space for puja trays. Wall seating on the south side will have to be removed. The alcove has cabinets below, thin columns, and shikhars on top.

An ad hoc committee consisting of Pallassana Balgopal, Annapoorna Halepatali, Christopher Goodnight, and Amita Sinha will discuss precise dimensions, materials, and construction details of the proposed design. A cost estimate will be prepared based upon specifications.

With the alcove on the south wall and navagrahas on the north east, congregation space will be reduced. Amita Sinha recommended that the wall between serving space and hall be removed (after checking the structural detail) to increase the open area for major events.

A motion to keep the internal modifications of the present Temple separate from the Cultural Center was made by Nani Bhowmik, seconded by Koeli Goel, and passed with one abstained.

Amita Sinha moved the motion to approve the plans for Cultural Center, temple alcove, and navagrahas. Pallassana Balgopal amended the motion to approve Cultural Center and Temple alcove only. Temple alcove was approved unanimously. Cultural Center plan was approved by 13 members and opposed by one.

There was discussion on navagrahas space-- 3'x3' and 2' pradakshina path around them. Wall seating on the north east corner will have to be removed. Jagannadharao Brahmamdam moved the motion to approve their installation. It was seconded by R.K. Bhonagiri and approved by all.

Jagannadharao Brahmamdam described the program for the Anniversary celebrations on April 20, 21, and 22. He urged all trustees to attend, especially on the opening day. Neha Mehta announced that lunch for 125 people on April 21 will be prepared by Swaminarayan Temple in Chicago. R.K. Bhonagiri announced that the cultural program will begin at 3.15 pm on Sunday, April 22 and there will be snacks.

Koeli Goel announced that the Counsel General, Indian Consulate in Chicago, Neeta Bhushan would be attending the temple anniversary event of April 21 morning or April 22 afternoon.

Respectfully submitted by Amita Sinha and Nani Bhowmik