

## **Minutes of HTCSCI Trustees and Ad Hoc Committee on Temple Planning and Expansion Meeting, March 10, 2018**

**Place: Temple**

**Time: 6 pm to 7:30pm**

Present: Veera Mallu Boddu (on phone), Pallassana Balgopal, Ramkrishna Bhonagiri, Naresh Goel, Annapoorna Halepatali, Adikeshav Naidu, Rakesh Pandey, Shailesh Patel, Amita Sinha, and Nani Bhowmik

Proxies: Koeli Goel and Kalindi Patel (Amita Sinha)

Members who tried to Join Remotely: Shiv Kapoor and Jagannadharao Brahmamdam

Members who communicated that they cannot make it: Govindjee, Neha Mehta and Jyothi Raju.

Nani Bhowmik handed out copies of the Conceptual plan for the proposed addition that was developed by Amita Sinha, Henna Gajjar and Nani Bhowmik.

Nani Bhowmik reported that he had an informal meeting and shared the conceptual drawings of the Cultural Center with the architect Andrew Fell of Champaign who is a UIUC graduate and has lived in the community for many years. Nani Bhowmik did not make any commitment to Andrew Fell. Andrew may charge in the range of \$15,000-\$20,000 and will donate half of his fees to the Temple. He will also assist in getting all the paper works completed for obtaining the building permit for this addition.

All agreed that this is quite reasonable and we should proceed with Andrew Fell for our Engineering Drawings. Shailesh indicated that they have worked with Andrew and they are very happy with his work.

The timeline for the Cultural Center groundbreaking was discussed. Amita shared that the Executive Committee has passed a resolution that it should be done during the Uttarayan period that ends on July 21, 2018.

Members present on February 10<sup>th</sup> agreed that the following steps, as suggested by Nani Bhowmik, should be followed before the actual ground breaking is done:

- Complete preliminary set of drawings,
- Discuss and seek comments, if any, about these drawings from the Trustees and Temple Planning and Expansion Ad Hoc Committee,
- Complete the final set of engineering drawings and specifications,
- Apply for Permit and get the Permit from the Champaign County,
- With the Permit in hand, seek approval from the General Body,
- Schedule the groundbreaking event.

Nani Bhowmik indicated that per Champaign County (as was told to him by the County),

- We have six months to start the construction after we obtain the Permit,

- The construction had to be completed within twelve months from the date of the issuance of the permit.
- We hope that with the Blessings of all of our deities, we should be able to complete the construction within the stipulated time frame once the Ground Breaking is done.

Other additions to the Temple were also discussed. Amita Sinha and Palassana Balgopal emphasized the need to build alcoves for the gods in the Temple at the same time as the Cultural Center is being constructed. Navagraha should be installed on the northeast corner, opposite to Durga Mata and a new exhaust for Homan should be installed. These work needed to be taken up as the construction of the Temple proceeds.

Per request by Nani Bhowmik, Shailesh Patel and RK Bhonagiri agreed to work in obtaining all the necessary information to install an exhaust fan probably in front of Maa Durga, where normally all the Homans are performed. Mr. Naidu indicated that he has seen exhaust fans hanging on flexible tubing which could be lowered and retracted back to the ceiling. The fumes from this fan should be channeled outside the building.

Nani Bhowmik requested Amita Sinha, Koeli Goel and Annapoorna Halepatali to develop sketches with approximate dimensions for locations, sizes, lighting including the conceptual plans to install Saints, {possibly 7(seven)} on the south wall of the Cultural Center. The same team was also requested to develop a plan with sketches for the Alcoves for the deities presently displayed near the south wall of the main Temple.

Annapoorna Halepatali gave detailed observations on the concept plan. She pointed out the need for increased storage, sink in the dining space in the basement, right width of doors and windows to meet code requirements, wheelchair accessibility, and space for coat and shoe racks.

Window widths and their positioning were discussed. Skylights and strip windows are an option, in view of the south wall having niches for up to seven saints. Absolute symmetry required by Vastu may have to be compromised.

Waterproofing is an important issue. Two sump pumps should be installed with independent discharge pipes. Diaper station in women's restroom is necessary. An industrial strength garbage dispenser is needed.

Dr. Naidu emphasized that approval for the Cultural Center groundbreaking from the General Body is necessary.

Nani Bhowmik recommended that that the go between the Architect and the present group should be done by: Nani Bhowmik, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee for Temple Planning and Expansion, Naresh Goel (Community Member), and Trustees Amita Sinha, Shiv Kapoor, and Shailesh Patel. All agreed.

The next meeting of the Extension Committee will be scheduled upon completion of preliminary drawings. This could also be done via emails.

Respectfully submitted by Amita Sinha and Nani Bhowmik