

# Hindu Temple of Arizona

---

HTA BOD'S MEETING MINUTES January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Present:** Ashwani Bakshi, Jagdish Sharma, Mohini Ahuja, Prem Bhardwaja, Kamal Kharbanda, Govind Satpathy, Uma Ramchandra, Varinder Narang, Asha Thakur, Asha Jain

**Absent:** Anil Gupta, Deepak Malhotra, Snigdha Sharma, Ravi Aggarwal, Vasu P Atluri (excused-In India about Bala Ji's murti)

Meeting started at 10:45am

## ***Item 1: Approval of the meeting minutes held on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006***

Since Ravi Aggarwal had to rush to India in emergency, therefore, this issue was tabled. However, Prem Bhardwaja, Uma Ramchandra, and Varinder Narang had already sent their feedback/ comments to Ravi, it was agreed that these three Board members will re-send their comments to the Temple Secretary who will incorporate the comments and bring the final draft to the next board meeting.

## ***Item 2: Formation of the HTA Committees***

A lengthy discussion took place on this item and the following Committees were suggested to form this year:

- (a) Puja Committee (b) Prasad Committee (c) Long-Term Planning Committee (d) Priest Committee (e) Building Maintenance Committee (f) Communication Committee (g) Youth Committee (h) Cultural Events Committee (i) Fund Raising Committee (j) Temple Aesthetic Committee

### ***Puja Committee:***

Uma Ramchandra will be the Chair as approved in last Board meeting. Uma Ji asked for Kamal Kharbanda and Prem Bhardwaja to be her Co-Chairs for the Puja Committee. They both agreed with Uma Ramchandra's recommendations. This Committee Chair and co-chairs suggested that they will be working on setting up some guidelines and rules for the devotees that they must adhere to in order to be on the Puja Committee. The Puja Committee Chair and Co-Chairs were requested that they should send a copy of the new guidelines and rules to the rest of the Board for FYI and solicit comments from them. Uma Ji mentioned that once the guidelines are in place then she will contact the devotees who would like to serve on this Committee.

### ***Prasad Committee:***

Since this committee gets more than their fair share, it was suggested and agreed upon to have more than one board member to take care of the prasadam. The entire year was divided into four quarters to make it manageable by the coordinators and board members were asked to pick any quarter of the year to serve as coordinator. Kamal Kharbanda took the first quarter, Ashwani Bakshi 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter; Jagdish Sharma took the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and Asha Jain took the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

### ***Building Maintenance Committee:***

The primary responsibility of this committee will be to ensure the temple premises are safe to carry on the daily and special events. Asha Thakur took over the responsibility for this committee and mentioned that she will have her husband Prahlad Thakur to help her as well. Any other devotee who would like to be on this committee may contact Asha Thakur. Vasu P Atluri will help this committee.

### ***Priest Committee:***

To work closely with the HTA priest(s) to ensure the proper record keeping, scheduling of Pujas in and outside the temple premises. Prem Bhardwaja took over this responsibility.

### ***Fund-raising Committee:***

From time to time, HTA will organize, coordinate, and sponsor fund-raising events for the exclusive benefit of the temple. Asha Jain accepted this responsibility and Prem Bhardwaja Vasu P Atluri will be the Co-Chairs .

### ***Youth Committee:***

Traditionally, various youth related activities such as offering free Hindi classes to our younger kids, teaching the skills of mantra chanting, bhajan singing and other such activities are carried out in Hindu Temple of Arizona. Jagdish Sharma took the responsibility to coordinate these events and Asha Jain will be the co-chair on this committee. Any other devotee who will like to help on these events may contact the chair or co-chair.

### ***Communication Committee:***

To maintain a continuous flow of information to and from the temple, community and to other press media, Ravinder Aggarwal accepted the responsibility to chair this committee.

### ***Temple Aesthetic Committee:***

**Check with Snigdha Sharma** to be the Chair of this committee??

### ***Cultural Events Coordinating Committee:***

**Deepak Malhotra??** to be the chair and Govind Satpathy as a co-chair.

### ***Long Term Planning Committee:***

Ravinder Aggarwal will be Chair and Asha Jain Vasu P Atluri as co-chairs.

### ***Item 3: Booth Reservation for Indo-Us Mela:***

Temple Secretary mentioned that he tried to initiate the conversation with Jay Ankur Bansal in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December but Jay informed him that the Temple need to get hold of Subhash Thathi for booth reservation purposes for Indo-Us mela to be held in Feb. 2007. Prem Bhardwaja took the responsibility to get hold of Subhash Thathi and complete all the formalities for booth reservation. Kamal Kharbanda took the responsibility to coordinate for preparing the food items for this mela.

A motion was made by Jagdish Sharma to allow Prem Bhardwaja to put a deposit on Temple's behalf for the amount not to exceed \$500 to Mr. Subhash Thathi for booth. Motion was 2nded by Varinder Narang. All voted in favor and the motion was carried.

### ***Item 4: Puja Committee Updates/ BOD Assignments***

A lengthy discussion took place with regard to the assignments of the Board of Directors for various pujas performed at the temple. The assignments went as following:

Shivratri: Kamal Kharbanda | Saraswati Puja: Ashwani Bakshi/Uma Ramchandra | Ram Navami/Hanuman Jayanti: Ashwani Bakshi | Karvachauth: Asha Thakur | Dushehra : Asha Jain | Rath Yatra: Govind Satpathy| Bala Ji Puja: Uma Ramchandra | Deepavali: Varinder Narang | Ganesh Chatruthy: Prem Bhardwaja | Temple Anniversary : Jagdish Sharma

Uma Ji discussed briefly on the issue of purchasing a small size murti of Satyanaryan Ji. Since Ravi Aggarwal was not present during the meeting, the Board decided to wait and confirm from Ravi whether the order has already been placed for this murti.

During this discussion, Uma Ji and Prem Ji also notified the Board that they will coordinate the Navratan Puja scheduled on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm.

### ***Item 5: Altar Migration:***

Uma Ramchandra discussed at length as to moving the Temple Altar temporarily to the east side until all the odered murtis are established properly. Since the back-drop area of the murtis will be much bigger than before, therefore she formally notified and made a formal motion to the Board that additional back-drop cloth will be needed and she will purchase the needed material to accommodate all the additional area on the back-drop. She was expecting the total amount probably not to exceed \$250. Prem Bhardwaja seconded the motion and all Board members agreed with the plan and the expenses. Motion was carried .

Due to the fact that several Board members had to leave the board meeting to attend a wedding in the community, the following items were tabled :

- 1) Discussion about the next door property
- 2) Transition Schedule

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm