

HTA Emergency Board Tele-Conference: January 19th, 2006

(8pm-9:14pm)

Present: Jagdish Sharma, Ashwani Bakshi, Mohini Ahuja, Asha Jain, Prem Bhardwaja, Uma Ramchandra, Govind Satpathy, Ravi Aggarwal, Varinder Narang

Others Present: Krishna Paliwal

Absent: Asha Thakur, Kamal Kharbanda, Anil Gupta, Deepak Malhotra, Vasu Atluri (in India) and Snigdha Sharma

BACKGROUND:

Since Ravi Aggarwal had to go to India due to his ailing father and the construction project at the Temple needed approval to stay with the time line, an approval of the new budget to spend on the Archway construction (Project#5) was needed immediately, hence this emergency Tele-conference was requested by the Secretary.

Krishna Paliwal, a certified architect and a devotee facilitated the meeting to apprise all the Board members present in this meeting about the scope of current project and its implications. Ravi Aggarwal was also able to join the meeting from India and helped the members understand the nature and scope of this project. Basically he re-iterated his email that was sent two days earlier and was distributed among the Board members by Ashwani Bakshi.

Scope of the Project:

- 1) Build an archway in the Puja hall as shown in the Approved drawings
- 2) Install all lights in the archway (fluorescent and can lights) as shown in the drawings and provide wiring and switches for the same on the wall as shown in the drawings.
- 3) Remove sheet rock from the ceiling for the area covered by the archway.
- 4) Remove all old wiring from the archway area in the existing ceiling in a safe manner and remove other electrical fittings/wiring from the archway area.
- 5) Remove pipe sticking below the ceiling in the archway area and reroute it as needed to take it above the ceiling so that it is not visible.
- 6) Finish the archway (sanding and taping etc) and keep it ready for painting. Painting is not included.
- 7) Rental for the dumpster.
- 8) Getting all inspections done by the city and getting the permits for all work performed.
- 9) It also includes building the 18 inch deep and 18 inch wide lighting areas alongside the north and south wall of the Puja room.

The implications of the project were discussed at length in terms of interruptions this will cause in performing functions like Shivratri Puja, Basant Panchami and our Tuesday, & Sunday Puja events. Krishna Paliwal indicated that this project is one of the most time consuming and precision oriented and hence will take at least three weeks to finish. He assured the Board that the contractors will clean up their working and surrounding areas each day before leaving.

Some of the other concerns beyond the scope of the current project were also discussed at length as well including the installation of an exhaust fan to take care of the smoke caused by Diyas and Joyt/agarbati burning, incenses etc.

The temple secretary asked a finance related question from Ashwani as to the availability of sufficient funding to ensure the proper and smooth running of the temple and related construction projects. Ashwani Bakshi assured everybody that there are enough funds available to proceed with this project.

Ashwani also apprised all the board members about the history of these construction related budgets and its related obligated and spent expenses.

A motion was made by the Temple secretary as following:

An approval of the spending budget of \$ 11,000 is needed for this archway project covering the scope of work as mentioned above.

Asha Jain seconded the motion

All present in the meeting approved the spending budget of \$ 11,000 for this archway project and the motion was carried. A 'yes' vote was also received from Asha Thakur via email that she sent earlier during the day mentioning her inability to join the meeting.

The Temple secretary also brought to the attention of the Board members about the temple air-conditioner and heating unit not working at all. Since this issue is critical and must be taken care of as soon as possible, Jagdish will work with Krishna Paliwal to get the heating unit fixed before the coming Tuesday Puja.

Everybody wished the best of health for Ravi's father and thanked him and Krishna Paliwal for being available at a very odd time of the day.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.