



# Hindu Temple of Arizona

(A Non Profit Organization)  
EIN # 86-098-3020

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Balbir Sharma  
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Director  
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## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Date: May 22nd**

Attendees: Sudeep Mehta, Surinder Sharma, Sanjay Sangani, Munnu Bajpai, Mamta Gupta, Varinder Narang, Mohini Ahuja, Ravi Aggarwal

Absent: Vasu Atluri

Excused: Balbir Sharma, Purnima Sharma, Sonia Rajvanshi

Meeting started at 2pm and adjourned at 4:15pm.

### **Fundraiser Dinner:**

1. We have commitment for approx 75 tickets. We need to start calling people on a personal basis to hit 200. We will request grocery stores to sell tickets as well.
2. Food is a major item that needs to be closed. Surinder, Sonia and Varinder needs to close and provide a status by Monday. It should include crockery and cleaning services. We are ready to pay for these.
3. Varinder to arrange a DJ for 10:30pm performance.
4. Not discussed: Sudeep will follow up on requested speakers from last Board discussion.
5. Suggestion by Mina Sangani to auction ceramic tile tables at Fund raising dinner event. We are going to have 4 tables for auction starting at \$251 and it is preferred that we have the tables ready for the dinner event.

### **Rath Yatra Festival:**

Rath Yatra will be celebrated on Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Jagannath Puja on Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. Mata Jagran will be moved to the following weekend.

There will be sponsorship for Havan - \$101 and \$21 for families that would like to have their names on flags posted on the Chariot.

We will need to get volunteers for constructing the Chariot and taking deities to the Chariot and back. We will give preference to our Sponsors.

The discussion on Jagannath Puja on Purnima is still not clear and Bajapai/Sonia to further clarify and close with Nirmala Chhibber and Shastriji.

The Sweeping function before the Deities in the Chariot will be performed by the President every year.

### **Miscellaneous Discussions**

- Swami Anantacharya Ji was paid \$1001 with around \$25 not covered by devotees.
- There was a discussion brought about by the Secretary. This was related to the record retention from last years. The Secretary has been given meeting minutes from 2004 only. We will contact the Secretary (Tuli, Vasu) from previous years for all the records.
- Building Loan pay off was reviewed. Mamta Gupta's \$5000 was given back as the money was not needed and Board thanks Mamta for her generous contributions.
- In order to show a decrease in our Loans, the Board was informed that \$3000 is being paid back to the people that have provided the loans.
- **Shastriji's 1 day off per week was approved by the Board with no impact on his current salary.** A backup priest will be secured and temple shall pay that Priest for their services. Shastriji's agreement will need to be in place and signed off to ensure everything is written down.

### **Building Improvements:**

Discussion was around the construction of the Altar as a priority. It was clarified that we are discussing a permanent altar. The Pros and Cons of Altar facing East versus West was discussed. The benefit of keeping the Altar facing the West is cost standpoint, less interdependencies, immediate benefit to the temple and least disruption to daily activities. The plan is to start building the Altar in place of the Office and adjacent room which will provide additional 320 sq ft. We will have a second exit door for Fire Safety and requirements will be crucial to ensure the design is right. The kitchen will stay in its current place inside but improvements will need to be made to make it easy for devotees to prepare Prasad.

While the Altar facing East is optimal, the cost burden, practicality of raising all the money without a burden and risk to the Temple is a major deterrent; including the impact to daily activities.

- **Decisions:** Start with Altar Construction in current place where Office room and adjacent rooms are located. Varinder Narang abstained from voting. All others voted “Yes”.

**Funding Decisions:** Several alternatives were discussed including ensuring that we do not place a burden on the temple.

- **Decisions:** Get a fixed interest rate equity loan; In parallel secure 0% interest loans from devotees and focus on fundraisers as a means to accelerating payment.

Next Steps are to start requirements definitions and get them approved by the Board.