

Minutes of the BOD meeting held on 7/16/06

Present : Varinder Narang, Prem Bhardwaja, Vijay Sethi, Mohini Ahuja, Uma Ramchandra, Kamal Kharbanda, Ravinder Aggarwal, Vasu Atluri (part of the meeting), Ashwani Bakshi

Others present : Krishna Paliwal , Rajesh Mehta (part of the meeting)

Absent: Mamta Gupta, Sonia Rajvanshi, Snigdha Sharma, Jagdish Sharma

The meeting started at 2:15 PM.

1) Agenda item #1—Approval of the minutes of meeting held on 6/25/06

Members were asked if they had any comments on the minutes of the meeting held on 6/25/06. At this point Mr. Sethi asked two questions.

- a) Which members of the Oriya community were present in the meeting held on 6/25/06? His attention was drawn to page 1 of the minutes of meeting dated 6/25/06 where names of all the members of the Oriya community who were present in that meeting were shown.
- b) Mr. Sethi asked if the the Oriya Association was a registered organization and if they had formally elected the representatives.

Mr. Sethi was told that the Oriya Association was not a registered organization as informed to the BOD by those present in the meeting held on 6/25/06. Mr. Sethi was further told that various committees were formed by the Oriya community based on the religious activities and other cultural activities that they felt that the Oriya community needed to participate in. No elections were held for forming those committees either. Mr. Sethi was also told that as per information of the BOD there were approximately 45-50 Oriya families in the valley. At this point Mr. Sethi asked that the letter sent by the Oriya community to the HTA BOD should be made a part of the minutes. The suggestion was accepted by those present and the letter was also shown to Mr. Sethi.

The minutes were approved subject to making the above referenced letter a part of the minutes.

2) Agenda item # 2—Alter design-present artist's rendition of the alter project to the board and obtain approval for moving forward with the construction activity.

The artist's rendition of the alter in the form of a virtual video tour was presented to the members of the board by Ravinder Aggarwal and Krishna Paliwal. As part of this presentation the design features of the alter, changes in the puja hall (archway above the walkway, two additional doors, one on each side, for external parikrama and the suspended ceiling etc) were explained. The modifications to the ceiling in the alter area, platform for the mandaps etc were also explained in detail with the help of the artist's rendition (video virtual tour). After the presentation Mr. Sethi started discussing an old plan (no drawing

was shown) which required construction of a separate building for the kitchen etc and which had been rejected by the previous board. He stated that the cost of construction as per that plan would have been cheaper but did not provide any details of the estimates. At this point Mr. Sethi was explained that the agenda item related to the presentation of the artist's rendition (and approval of the same) as per the concept that had been approved by all the board members including Mr. Sethi in a previous meeting. He was also told that he would be given an opportunity to introduce a motion, if he so desired, even though he had not sent the same to the secretary when inputs on the agenda were solicited.

The concept drawing of the alter and other related engineering drawings requested by the BOD in a previous meeting were also presented for review by Krishna Paliwal and Ravinder Aggarwal.

At this point following motion was proposed by Ravinder Aggarwal

Since All the drawings requested by the board in a previous meeting and the artist's rendition had been completed and discussed with the members of the board present in the meeting, it is recommended that the drawings and the artist's rendition should be approved and approval for moving forward with the first phase of the construction activity (scope already defined and sent out previously) should be accorded.

The motion was seconded by Mohini Ahuja and Ashwani Bakshi.

At this point MR Prem Bhardwaja proposed an amendment to include the following:

Any modifications necessary to the main electrical panel should be included in the scope of work. All stuff lying in the office area and the closets inside the room should be safely relocated to another area. Cost estimate for renting a POD should be provided to the board for information.

It was agreed to include the above in the scope and the motion was put to vote.

All present except Mr. Sethi voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Sethi voted against the motion. The motion was passed with overwhelming majority vote.

3) New item not on the initial agenda—Mr. Sethi's comments about the old plan that was rejected by the previous board and his comments on the concept and other drawings approved by the BOD.

Mr. Sethi expressed a view that the old plan could accomplish everything that was included in the new plan and some other things for less than the approved budget for the current plans. Mr. Sethi was reminded by several board members that before the present concept was approved he was given an opportunity to present his plan again for board's review but that he had failed to produce any drawings at that time within a timeframe of several weeks that was accorded to him for that purpose. He was also reminded that in spite of repeated requests he had not been able to produce any estimates in writing. He was also reminded that at that time he was given a chance by one of the executive members of the old board

(last year) to take up the whole project and get it done for the amount he was talking about but Mr. Sethi had decided not to accept the offer.

Mr. Sethi felt that with new concept the storage space will be eliminated. He was explained that things were scattered all over the place and hence the area looked congested. He was informed that by properly rearranging and storing things and disposing off things that were of no use, enough space could be found to safely store all items inside the room.

Mr. Sethi was concerned that no office will be available for holding meetings in future and that no room will be available for changing or practicing for cultural events in future. It was explained to Mr. Sethi that by using available space for multiple tasks and activities all such activities could still be carried out. For example the dining area is used only during serving of the Prasad. This could easily be used for other activities when necessary. He was also told that meeting could also be held there and, if necessary, at certain times the meetings could be held at somebody's house or at ASU or libraries as we had done in the past.

In the end Mr. Sethi was asked to provide a comprehensive list of facilities that he thought would not be available if the alter was built as per the approved plan and he was told that once he provided the list the committee would provide answers to him.

Mr. Sethi asked for 1 week's time to provide the list to the board. The time was granted to him. He was also told that he would be given a timeline for providing the answers to his questions/concerns within three days of receipt of his list.

Mr. Sethi kept trying to verbally convey the list but he was repeatedly requested to provide the same in writing. At this point he got up in anger and stated that he did not want to be a part of this board and said that "He was resigning from the board with immediate effect" and left the meeting.

4) Agenda item # 3—Financial review—Q2, 2006

Mr. Bakshi presented a financial analysis for the period 1/1/06 to 6/30/06. The details were reviewed by the members. Mr. Bakshi was asked to see if we can avoid the bank charges by moving the account to another bank that does not charge any periodic charges. He agreed to look into this suggestion.

It was decided to post the financial statement on the notice board and the same was posted after the meeting.

5) Agenda item # 5-- Puja committee recent events and updates.

Uma Ramchandra presented details of the upcoming puja activities.

Board was requested to post Balaji puja flier at India Plaza. Ravinder Aggarwal will do that.

For the Bhagwat Saptah from July 27th to Aug 2nd, the board decided to offer Prasad on all days. Mohan Bhai will bring Prasad on Aug 1st and 2nd. Other volunteers came forward to

prepare Prasad on the remaining days. A list will be posted on the notice board by Kamal Kharbanda.

Mohan Bhai suggested that a large number of people may attend the discourse on August 1st and 2nd and in order to serve the Prasad quickly he requested that people may be allowed to take the Prasad in the puja hall. All members present agreed that the curtain in front of the deities can be pulled and people will be served Prasad in the puja hall on those two days. Boxed Prasad could be served on other days, if necessary.

Arrangements may have to be made for Parking (Varinder Narang) on these two days. In addition two volunteers per day will be required to serve the Prasad every day.

Yoga party needs to be informed that there will be no Yoga classes on Saturday the 29th of July. Prem Bhardwaja will support Uma Ji for July 29th Balaji puja.

A budget of \$100 was approved for Balaji puja.

Janmashtami will be celebrated on August 16th. Rajesh Mehta will be the event coordinator and Ravinder Aggarwal will be the representative of the board for this occasion. The event co ordinator will provide detailed plans to the board. A budget of \$ 250 was approved for this occasion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.