

HTA minutes of meeting held on 7/30/06

Present: Mohini Ahuja, Uma Ramchandra, Vijay Sethi, Jagdish Sharma, Varinder Narang, Ashwani Bakshi, Kamal Kharbanda, Ravinder Aggarwal, Snigdha Sharma, Prem Bhardwaja (on phone)

Absent: Sonia Rajvanshi, Mamta Gupta

Others present: Ravi Sharma , Manju Misra

Meeting started at 2: 20 PM.

Mr Sethi started by asking if Dr Misra had been informed that various committees by the Oriya community were formed in an informal manner, without any elections. Mr Sethi was informed that this was not an agenda item and that discussion on this point could take place at the end after all agenda items had been discussed and if there was some time remaining. At this point Mr Sethi withdrew his question.

At this point discussion started on agenda item #1.

Agenda item #1—Approval of funding for project 1—alterations of back room.

Ravi Aggarwal and Krishan Paliwal provided the overview of the project #1, including the scope of the work. All technical questions by present members were answered by Krishna Paliwal (HTA volunteer architect with MS degree).

Inputs were solicited from all members present.

Snigdha Sharma stated that temple is debt free now and should stay the same way in future. She also stated that we should create a project manual including Budget, Schedule, Concept and various steps of the process. Another suggestion was to open a separate bank account for the altar project.

Ashwani Bakshi stated that when we bought the temple we had substantial loan but the same has since been paid off. There was no concern if some loan had to be taken to build the altar because that will show progress and as a treasurer he did not see any problems in paying off the loan in a timely fashion.

Jagdish Sharma stated that he had heard concerns over the phone that some people who had donated money were on the verge of losing trust because temple seems to be stuck at the same place and is not making any progress.

Prem Bhardwaja stated that he would like to see the temple make progress. He also stated that the community expects more than where we are today and we should build a better facility. He also stated that we should have money for various alteration projects and that money should be dedicated and should not be used for other projects.

Vijay Sethi wanted to know the cost of the altar project and he wanted the work quoted properly. He was informed that the altar project is not one project but involves several projects that will culminate in the completion of an altar at the temple.

Uma Ramchandra had nothing to say.

Mohini Ahuja stated that we now have all the information requested in the previous meetings (artist's rendition and detailed engineering drawings) and we should proceed with the construction of the altar.

Kamal Kharbanda started by asking "Are we going to build an altar this year"? She emphasized the need for all to work together. She also stated that money already donated should be considered for this project.

At this point the non board members present were asked if they had any comments. Manju Misra stated that at this time the board should be concerned about a lot of other things and she was reminded that the comments should be limited to the agenda item only. She then asked if Krishna Paliwal had the qualifications to do the design.

Ravi Sharma did not have any comment.

After all these discussions following motion was proposed by Ravinder Aggarwal.

Motion # 1: An approval for spending \$11,000 should be granted to complete project 1 (scope of work was already distributed) so that project 1 activity can be started and completed in the time frame of 2-3 weeks.

Motion was seconded by Varinder Narang.

Mr Sethi and Snigdha Sharma voted against the motion. All others voted for the motion and **the motion was passed with overwhelming majority.**

A question was also raised by Mr Prem Bhardwaja about the cost of the POD. He was informed that two different quotations were taken for the POD and as per one quotation the cost to rent the smallest POD would be \$ 135 PM and the cost as per the other quotation would be \$ 165 PM. The members were also informed that at this time the need for renting a POD did not seem to be critical .

Agenda item #2—HTA liability coverage for altar construction activity

Ashwani Bakshi informed the board that as per the present coverage the temple is covered upto \$3Million /year with each occurrence covered upto \$ 1 Million. Cost of additional umbrella coverage of \$ 1 Million would be \$ 350 per year.

An AR was defined for Ashwani Bakshi to find out if our insurance company can provide worker's compensation. Ashwani will check and report in the next meeting. Another AR was defined for Vijay Sethi to check if we can be covered by the State compensation fund. Mr Sethi will provide an update in the next board meeting.

Motion #2—A motion was proposed by Varinder Narang to take an umbrella policy for an amount of \$2 million beyond what we have today.

Motion was seconded by Ashwani bakshi.

All voted yes for the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Agenda item # 3—Disposition last meeting open item—BOD member status

In the last meeting Vijay Sethi had stated that he did not want to be part of the board anymore and had verbally stated his intent to resign from the board.. He had walked out of the last meeting after making this statement. Vijay Sethi was asked if he wanted to give the resignation in writing or if had changed his mind. He stated that he wanted to stick around and rescinded his resignation.
The matter was considered closed after he withdrew his resignation in the board meeting.

Agenda Item # 4—Puja committee recent events and updates

Uma Ramchandra informed the board that the Balaji Puja went very well and that there were a lot of positive vibrations in that puja.
Snigdha Sharma explained that every body had paid the money for the jagannath Ji rath yatra but the money had not been turned in as all the expenses had not been detailed yet. She was encouraged to submit all collections as soon as possible or by 8/6/06 at the latest. She was requested to submit all expense receipts and the received donations checks/cash to HTA treasurer for proper accounting and disbursement per HTA guidelines.

An issue was raised that Iskon temple had not been informed about the rath yatra at which point Uma Ramchandra informed the board that an E mail had been sent to them informing about the program.

During the discussions it was also brought to the attention of the board that the following commitments made for donations had not been realized yet. Vijay Sethi \$501 for Swami Anantacharya visit.

Total collection for this visit was \$ 2013 and total expenses were \$ 1500. Mr Sethi commented that he had committed to paying only 25% of the total expenses and not \$501. At that point Mr Sethi was requested to fulfill his commitment for the outstanding amount of \$375 (25% of \$1500).

Janmashtami would be celebrated on Aug 16th and Uma ji was comfortable with a 2 hour cultural program with aarti at 9 PM.

It was also decided that Jagdish Sharma would be the representative of the board for the Ganesh Chaturthi to be celebrated on August 27th.

In the last meeting Vijay Sethi was asked to provide a list of his concerns regarding the lack of certain facilities in the proposed altar design (He had expressed a concern that the design had overlooked several critical needs). At that time he had asked for 1 week's time to put a list together and submit the same to the board. Since no list had been received he was asked once again if he had a list that he could provide to the board at which point he replied that he did not have a list. The matter was closed in view of the fact that no information was provided as agreed upon in the previous meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4.05 PM.