

HTA BOD meeting held on 9/10/06

Minutes of meeting

Present : Varinder Narang, Jagdish Sharma, Mohini Ahuja, Snigdha Sharma, Prem Bhardwaja, Ravinder Aggarwal, Ashwani Bakshi, Uma Ramchandra

On Phone: Vasu Atluri, Kamal Kharbanda

Absent: Mamta Gupta, Vijay Sethi

Others present: Ravi Sharma, Krishna Paliwal, Sushma Bakshi, Kailash Bhardwaja

Meeting started at 3 PM

Agenda Item #1: Approval of the minutes of meeting held on 7/30/06 and 8/20/06

There were no comments on the minutes of the meeting (held on 7/30/06) that were sent out earlier.

Motion was proposed by Ravinder Aggarwal to approve the minutes.

Motion was seconded by Jagdish Sharma.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

Meeting held on 8/20/06—It was suggested to remove the dates of review from the contract to be given to Shri Kanhaiya Lal ji.

Prem Bhardwaja suggested to add the cost of permit in agenda item #4.

It was also suggested to add names of all event coordinators in agenda item #5 (Snigdha Sharma, Uma Ramchandra, Manju Misra).

A motion was proposed by Ravinder Aggarwal to approve the minutes subject to above comments.

Motion was seconded by Prem Bhardwaja.

All voted in favor of the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 2: --Selection of the second priest.

Varinder informed the board that more than three candidates had been screened. A question was asked by Vasu as to how the selection committee was picked for the evaluation. Varinder informed him that the group that screened the candidates consisted of executive committee members and puja committee members. Furthermore the process was based on a selection criteria for the priest that was developed and sent to all board members several months ago.

It was also clarified that the second priest is being added because of the workload and this had already been approved in the previous board meeting. Following points were raised

- 1) Selection criteria for the priest should be re sent to all board members.—**AR Varinder Narang**
- 2) Information about interviews with various priests should be documented. **AR—Varinder Narang**
- 3) 3) Priest selected should be able to cater to the needs of a wider audience.

It was agreed to

- 1) Send comments on the evaluation criteria in 2 weeks.
- 2) Finalize the criteria in 2 weeks.
- 3) Form a sub committee for selection of the priest.

Every body was requested to send comments on the selection criteria to the priest selection committee.

A motion was proposed by Snigdha Sharma to finalize the criteria based on inputs recd by then (in two weeks).

Motion was seconded by Prem Bhardwaja.

All voted in favor of the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

It was also agreed to put a timeline for hiring of the second priest. Everybody agreed to a time line of six weeks for the final selection of the priest.

A committee consisting of the following members was proposed for the selection of the priest. Vasu Atluri, Prem Bhardwaja, Uma Ramchandra, Ravinder Aggarwal, Varinder Narang, Snigdha Sharma and Kamal Kharbanda.

The committee was given the responsibility of selecting a chairperson.

Agenda Item # 3—Financial update for project funding

Ashwani Bakshi reported that a separate account for the murti sthapna project had been set up. The board was informed that a letter to be sent to the devotees announcing the alter construction project had been drafted and was under review. It was decided to send the letter at the earliest. Ashwani also informed the board that we had money for completing project # 2 even after money had been kept aside for the day to day operation of the temple. He also confirmed that some devotees had already donated the money for the murtis. Vasu wanted a financial reporting template to be created and agreed to give inputs on the same to Ashwani Bakshi offline.

Agenda item # 4:

Jagdish stated that while we were working on the electrical wiring we should also add cables for security camera etc. Jagdish was asked to provide details of what is needed to Ravi. **AR: Jagdish to provide details of what is needed for security camera etc.**

It was proposed by Mohini Ahuja that the money transferred to the construction account (\$ 35,000) should be shown to include money collected for the murtis (\$ 14,500) in 2002.

The motion was seconded by Jagdish Sharma.

Every body voted in favor of the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda item # 5—Puja committee update

It was decided that Karva Chauth will be celebrated in the temple and the temple will provide Prasad on this occasion. A default budget of \$ 250 was approved for this purpose. Mohini Ahuja and Sushma Bakshi will be the event coordinators for this event.

It was also suggested that we should have a special puja on the day we perform the “laying of the first stone” for the platform that is being constructed for the altar. A cultural program of 1 hour duration was also recommended by Uma Ji for the day on which the top of the platform will be closed. A target date for closing the top was estimated to be 10/29/06. However, this date will be updated based on the progress of work in the temple.

Uma Ji was also requested to send comments on the flier that was created asking for things to be put inside the platform by the devotees before the final closing of the top of the platform.

AR: Uma Ji to provide feedback on the flier in 1 week.

Kitchen Prasad issue: Jagdish Sharma reported an incident that took place in the kitchen on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. On hearing some noise from the kitchen that day he went to the kitchen and saw Sushma Bakshi, Manju Misra and the lady who had sponsored the Prasad on that day, discussing an issue related to preparation of the Prasad. Manju Misra was heard screaming at Sushma Bakshi saying "Why are you disturbing our cooking". Sushma Bakshi had come at 8 AM to cook the Prasad for Ganesh Chaturthi. Manju Misra informed her that she (Manju) was cooking Prasad for only three to five people. Sushma Bakshi left and came back at 9:30 AM. In the meantime pandit ji could not make tea for himself as all 5 stoves were busy, being used by Manju Misra for cooking of Prasad for 3 to 5 people. At that time Manju Misra came in the kitchen and screamed at Sushma Bakshi saying "if you are not making Prasad for 100 people can you not cook in the kitchen?? You are using your power because your husband is in the board". She kept on screaming at Sushma Bakshi saying you people need to come to the temple early if you want to cook here.

Snigdha Sharma felt that people are confused as to how the kitchen has to be shared.

Every body felt that such incidents are uncalled for and everybody in the kitchen should work in a cooperative manner. It was suggested that prasad committee will come up with a proposal about cooking of Prasad and sharing of the kitchen facilities.

Prem Bhardwaja proposed a motion to have an emergency board meeting and to invite all Prasad coordinators in that meeting. It was agreed to hold this meeting in 2 weeks (on Sunday). Snigdha Sharma will communicate the message to Manju Misra. A final decision will be made in this meeting.

The motion was seconded by Ashwani Bakshi. All voted in favor of the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Snigdha Sharma reiterated that all decisions made by the board of directors should be sent to all members of the board so that everybody knows the facts.

At this point Prem Bhardwaja wanted to discuss an item related to the procurement of murtis and mandaps and the sthapna of the murtis that was not on the agenda. Keeping in mind the importance of the issue he was given time to speak on this issue.

Prem Ji expressed his concern that funds raised for murtis should not be used for any other activities in the temple till the murti sthapna projects were completed.

Following motion was proposed by Prem Bhardwaja.

All funds collected for the murti sthapna and mandap construction projects shall be utilized for this purpose only. No funds will be used for any other purpose before the completion of murti sthapna (alongwith purchases of proper jewelery and dresses) and the mandap construction.

The motion was seconded by Jagdish Sharma.

All voted in favor of the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM