

Minutes of meeting held on 12/17/06

Present: Vijay Sethi, Varinder Narang, Kamal Kharbanda, Prem Bhardwaja, Jagdish Sharma, Ravinder Aggarwal, Mohini Ahuja, Ashwani Bakshi, Mamta Gupta

On the phone: Snigdha Sharma

Absent: Sonia Rajvanshi, Vasu Atluri, Uma Ramchandra (in India),

New board members present: Asha Jain, Asha Thakur, Deepak Malhotra (part of the meeting), Anil Gupta (part of the meeting)

The meeting started at 2: 18 PM

Agenda item #1—Approval of the minutes of meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 6/4/06: Jagdish mentioned that somehow there was no record of the minutes of meeting held on 6/4/06 being approved by the board.

Prem Bhardwaja (PB) proposed that the minutes be approved.

Motion was seconded by Vijay Sethi.

All voted yes and the minutes were approved.

Minutes of meeting held on 10/8/06:

These minutes were reviewed next. A modification to agenda item # 8 was suggested.

Last three lines mentioned under agenda item # 8 were deleted as Mohini Ahuja (MA) stated that she did not have the AR to check with City of Scottsdale about the crossing in front of the temple.

A motion was proposed by Jagdish Sharma (JS) to approve the minutes with these changes.

Motion was seconded by PB.

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

Minutes of meeting held on 11/12/06:

One correction was proposed by Snigdha Sharma in second paragraph on page 3. The minutes were revised to add that in case the priest brings his children later on he will arrange accommodation for them at his own expenses.

JS proposed a motion to approve the minutes with these changes.

The motion was seconded by Vijay Sethi (VS).

All voted in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda item #2: Approval of emergency telecom meeting held on 12/7/06:

Comment 1—Original E mail recd from Chandana Misra was to be sent by Snigdha Sharma (SS). If the E mail to be forwarded by SS is the same as that sent by Chandana Misra (un-truncated)then the issue will be closed.

Comment2—SS stated that the statement that Varinder Narang (VN) made “ that SS should have raised any questions during the AGM’ was not discussed in the telecom. VN stated that it was stated correctly in the minutes.

It was proposed by Ravinder Aggarwal (RA) that changes should be made to paragraph 1 and the minutes can be passed with those changes.

The motion was seconded by VN.

All voted in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

A comment was made by RA that we spend too much time discussing the minutes as the members do not send comments in advance even though the minutes are circulated at least 2 weeks in advance of the board meeting. It was agreed that in future all comments by the members must be sent prior to the meeting so that the minutes can be revised before hand and all discussions can be limited.

Agenda item #3: Status of agreement for the second priest

VN stated that final version of the agreement was sent and no comments were received. The service agreement was also discussed with the HTA legal counsel and no changes were recommended by him.

The board needs to file for the R1 visa for the priest. HTA will use the services of the HTA counsel to file for the R1 visa application. List of documents needed was read. The HTA counsel will charge a fee in the amount of \$2,500 for filing the R1 visa. He has also agreed to donate this amount to the HTA on a voluntary basis. In addition there will be an additional processing fee that will be charged by the INS and the exact amount of the same is not known.

A motion was proposed by RA to seek approval of the board to file for a R1 visa application for the second priest using the services of the HTA legal counsel. An approval for spending an amount not to exceed \$ 4,000 for this purpose was also sought as part of this motion.

The motion was seconded by JS

Snigdha Sharma voted against the motion. All others voted in favor of the motion.

The motion was carried with a majority vote.

A motion of thanks to the HTA legal counsel for services rendered was proposed by PB and seconded by JS.

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

AR: Varinder Narang to provide a copy of the final contract to Jagdish Sharma.

Agenda item #4: Status of alter construction project 2 and murtis and mandaps

An update was provided by RA. Most of the work listed as part of project 2 has been completed. A general clean up of the area is required. After a primary coat of paint the electrical lights will be installed and activated. At that time the alter can be relocated to the new platform so that work on the next project can be started (construction activity in the puja hall).RA also stated that according to an E mail recd from Pandey Exports the murtis are on schedule but the mandaps will be delayed by a month primarily because of

delay in sending the advance amount to Pandey Exports. It was decided that murtis and mandaps should be shipped together.

Following questions were raised:

- 1) How much customs duty is required?? We will start to look for a clearing agent who can take care of all formalities and can also inform us about the customs duty payable if any.
- 2) Where should we store the murtis once they are recd here. It was suggested that we should arrange for a secure storage area for this purpose.
- 3) Are we going to perform the sthapna for all the murtis at the same time?? Answer –Yes.

Agenda Item #5—Temple security

JS stated that at one time VS had agreed to donate 2 cameras to the temple and that is what is currently installed. This is a monitoring system only and has no recording capability currently.

JS stated that we are going to be adding a lot of assets in the temple and for security purposes we should install a camera system with recording capability. This should not be deemed as invasion of anybody's privacy as it is proposed to install this system in the temple and not in somebody's house.

JS stated that he had obtained two quotations. He recommended a system that can take upto 7 cameras and volunteered to do the installation of the system in the temple.

VS proposed a motion that the temple should be protected by a monitoring/recording system with internet monitoring capability. AS part of the same motion a budget approval of \$5,000 was sought.

The motion was seconded by PB.

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

RA stated that City of Scottsdale has asked HTA to install a fire alarm system that meets the approval of the fire marshal and meets the requirements of the local fire code. Two estimates were obtained for this alarm system and an approximate expenditure of \$ 9000 would be required for this.

VS stated that the BOD should get quote from one more source.

AR: Vijay Sethi will get a quote from one additional source for the fire alarm system with in 10 days. The requirements are shown on sheet 1 of the drawings posted on the notice board in the temple. If the quote is not recd within 10 days the project committee will proceed on the basis of quotes already received.

Ashwani Bakshi stated that the alarm system will not be part of the alter construction project and hence the funding has to come from the day to day operation funds of the HTA. While funds are being received regularly we may not have enough funding to do both projects simultaneously. It was agreed that the fire alarm system will be installed

first and the wiring of the camera system will also be installed along with the wiring activity in the puja hall.

AR: Ravinder Aggarwal to obtain a quotation for putting the wiring for the cameras and the recording system.

RA stated that the cost of this wiring is not included in the cost of the alter construction project as it was not included in the original scope of work.

Agenda Item #6—Welcome new board members

JS welcomed the new board members and thanked the outgoing board members for their services to the HTA.

VN stated that a lot of volunteers put in a lot of effort and time and every body thanked all the volunteers for their services.

The need to reintroduce the hindi classes and youth club was stressed.

Agenda Item – Others

HTA calendar: JS stated that the total expenses for the calendar were \$2,445, \$150 more than the approved budget. The amount was higher because a lot of corrections were made several times. No approval for this extra \$150 was required as it was within the \$250 discretionary spending limit. Total received donation for the calendar approx. \$4,400. A suggested donation of \$2 was proposed for the calendar.

Dr. Hara Misra's Letter

JS stated that a letter was delivered to him by Hara Misra on 12/17 /06 at 1:45 PM just before the start of the meeting. The envelope was addressed to the president and the members of the board of directors. JS will send a copy of the letter to all board members.

A motion was proposed by RA that based on the letter served to Hara Misra recently wherein Hara Misra was informed that the board will not entertain any written communication from him, the BOD need not respond to this letter from Hara Misra. DR Hara Misra had also been advised in the same letter served to him to come to the board meeting to discuss any issues that need to be discussed so that the issues can be heard and addressed appropriately.

Motion was seconded by VN.

Vijay Sethi abstained from the voting. Snigdha Sharma was no longer on the line when the voting took place. All others voted in favor of the motion and the motion was carried with majority vote.

A new executive committee consisting of the following members was formed unanimously:

Ashwani Bakshi	President
Asha Jain	Vice President
Mohini Ahuja	Treasurer
Anil Gupta	Jt Treasurer

Jagdish Sharma
Ravinder Aggarwal

Secretary
Jt Secretary

It was recommended that Uma Ramchandra should continue as the chair person of the puja committee .

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM