

## **Minutes of meeting of the BOD held on 3/13/11**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of HTA (BOD HTA) was held on 3/13/11 in the Annapurna Hall at the temple.

Following were present:

Rina Narang, Madhu Aggarwal, Nirmal Chhibber, Sushma Bakshi, Sumana Ghosh, Pramod Ghiya, Desh Ahuja, Sateesh Ambadi was on the phone .

Absent: Prakash Sahoo, Vimal Arora, Anil Gupta, Vasu Atluri , Rajshri Panda, Anita Ramaiah, Isha Vashisht

Others present: Ravinder Aggarwal, Kamal Kharbanda, Alisha, Pam,

Meeting started at 3:30 PM after quorum was achieved.

The secretary offered a short prayer at the start of the meeting. All present joined in the prayer.

Members were asked if any other agenda items needed to be added. Agenda item about youth club proposal was added at the request of Kamal Kharbanda.

### **Item 1 –Approval of the agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Pramod Ghiya (PG).

Seconded by: Rina Narang (RN)

All OK. Motion was carried unanimously.

### **Item 2—Approval of minutes of meeting held on 2/13/11**

Motion to approve the minutes of meeting held on 2/13/ 11 was proposed by Pramod Ghiya and Seconded by Sushma Bakshi (SB)

All OK. Motion was carried unanimously.

**AI: Approved minutes to be sent by the secretary to be posted on the HTA website.**

**Item 3--- R1 Visa status letter to INS for Pt Kameshwar ji.**

The secretary informed that last year the legal counsel of HTA had given his opinion that HTA was obligated to inform INS that PT. Kameshwar ji had left the services of the HTA. Jitender Kabra, the then secretary of the BOD, had written an e-mail to Anil Gupta (President in 2010) to write the letter to INS. This year also the secretary of the BOD had sent two e-mails to Anil Gupta in this connection asking if any action had been taken by him in this regard. There was no response from Anil Gupta to these e-mails.

Motion was proposed by Desh Ahuja to write the letter to INS

Seconded by Pramod Ghiya

Everybody present agreed that HTA should write the letter to INS informing them that Pt. Kameshwar ji had left the service of HTA.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **AI: The secretary to write letter to INS**

#### **Item 4: Puja committee update**

NC will be the coordinator for march 19, 2011 Satya Narayan Ji's puja and PG will be the coordinator for Holika Dahan.

NC suggested that since Holika Dahan and Satya Narayan ji's puja are on the same day there may be more than 150 people present in the temple on that day. She said that she can make prashad for only 50 people and somebody else from the board should help in making the prashad for the rest. SB said that the event coordinator is responsible for taking care of prashad and suggested that if NC cannot take care of this then we can have somebody else as the coordinator for Satya Narayan ji's puja. SB said that Isha Vashisht wants to be the coordinator. NC mentioned that Isha can be the second coordinator.

#### **AI: Madhu Aggarwal to contact Isha Vashisht and ask her to come to the next BOD meeting and explain if she wants to be the second coordinator for Satya Narayan ji's puja.**

NC said that Uma wants the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Puja to start at 4:30 PM so that sponsor's puja can be done from 4:30 PM to 5:0 PM.

It was decided that no special consideration will be made for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday puja.

Motion: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday puja will be conducted during regular puja hours for Sunday Pujas (from 5PM to 7PM).

Motion proposed by RN and seconded by DA.

All voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

NC read the list of special events to be held in the temple for the month of April.

SB will be the event coordinator for Nav-ratra's and Hanuman Jayanti.

**AI: NC to send the list of events to the secretary.**

There was discussion about attendance of devotees in the Sunday puja. Several members including PG and RN felt that the attendance has gone down since the puja hours were changed to evening hours. There was discussion if temple hours for Sunday puja should be changed back to the morning. Decision was made to observe the attendance for some more time.

**Item #5- Treasurer's report**

Balance as of 03/13/2011	\$ 69,444
Mela Food Sale/Collections	\$ 2006
Shivratri Night Collections:	\$ 7,583.

Jan & February collections:

\$ 12,879

\$ 18,095

Jan & Feb Expenses

\$ 8,363

\$ 9,270

SG stated that she would like to help the treasurer in discharging her duties. She was told that there was no set schedule for counting the money or depositing the money in the bank and therefore she cannot be given prior notice about these things.

**Item# 6--- Youth Club**

Pam and Alisha presented the proposal to start the youth club in the temple.

Timing of the youth club activities will coincide with Sunday puja schedule. Alisha, Pam and Pankaj will manage activities of the youth club. Pam and Alisha will inform the BOD about a tentative schedule of activities of youth club.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday- Helping in the kitchen

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday- Puja, Shaloka's and Basics of Hinduism.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday- Community service

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday- Dance, art and skit

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday- Guest Speaker

**AI: Pam will furnish the details of the activities and the schedule to the secretary.**

DA mentioned that there may be a requirement to register the youth club with the city or the state.

**AI: DA to investigate the requirements and inform the board.**

It was proposed that youth club membership will be free for the 1<sup>st</sup> two or three months. There may be nominal charge after that initial period. Supplies required can be donated by the devotees.

Motion was proposed by PG to start the youth club in April. It was seconded by NC. All agreed and the motion was carried unanimously.

Alisha stated that the website still shows the morning puja hrs. for Sunday puja .

**AI: Anita Ramaiah to get this discrepancy resolved.**

NC suggested that the temple should give certificate of appreciation to the volunteers. It was agreed to make a standard template for the certificate.

**AI: NC to create a standard template for the certificate and send it to the secretary.**

### **Item #7--- Priest hiring committee**

KK informed the BOD that she has formed a priest hiring committee.

The members are Kamal Kharbanda Chair person, Rohit Aggarwal, Jitendra Kabra and Sushma Bakshi.

KK will contact Prem Bhardwaja and Uma Ramchandran and will include one of them in the committee after discussions with them.

KK stated that after review of the available candidates she was recommending Pt Kanhiya Lal ji for a temporary assignment for a period of 1 year till a suitable permanent candidate was found.

Some other names were suggested and DA stated that all recommendations should be sent to the priest hiring committee and the committee should come back with a final recommendation to the BOD in the next BOD meeting.

Madhu Aggarwal stated that the BOD should consider following important factors before making a final decision.

- A. Whether the candidate has green card or not.
- B. Whether a candidate has R1 visa or not.
- C. Is the BOD willing to pay for the visa expenses for the priest.
- D. Relocation expenses.

KK will bring the final recommendation of the priest hiring committee to the BOD in the next meeting on 4/24/11.

### **Item #8 Placement of Satya Narayan ji's murti.**

NC asked why Satya Narayan ji's murti was not placed in the original location after Maha Shiv Ratri Puja. Pandit Satya Narayan ji was requested to join the meeting and give his opinion to the BOD. Pandit ji reiterated that only Shiv ji and Hanuman ji's murtis can face south, therefore the present location of the Satya Narayan ji's murti was the proper location. He also stated two other things .

1. Garud ji's murti should not be placed inside the temple.  
He stated that we should consider constructing a main entrance dwar and place Garud ji's murti there.
2. We should not place any more murti's inside the temple because then the devotees will be sitting with their backs to the murtis.

MA said that all the administrative decisions will be made by the BOD and puja related decisions should be made by the pandit ji.

It was decided that Shri Satynarayan Ji's murti will be left in its current location. Everybody agreed with this but NC was opposed to this decision. Pandit ji was also informed that he has full authorization from the board to stop people if somebody tries to step on the alter.

**Item # 8—Update regarding discussion with Swami Ram Kamal Das Vedanti Ji**

PG informed the BOD that he had spoken with Swami ji and had informed him about the decision of the board that Swami ji will be given the donation by the temple and all other donations received during his discourse would go to HTA. BG informed the BOD that Swami Ji did not accept this proposal.

It was agreed that this criteria will be applied uniformly to all speakers invited to give discourse at the temple.

MA informed the BOD that the next board meeting will be held on 4/24/11.

Motion was proposed by PG to close the meeting. Seconded by SB.

All agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM