

Minutes of the BOD of HTA meeting held on August 13, 2008

Present: Prakash Sahoo, Deepak Malhotra, Mina Bhagdev, Krishna Paliwal (on the phone), Uma Ramchandra, Dilip Parekh, Asha Jain, Ashwani Bakshi, Desh Ahuja and Ravinder Aggarwal

Absent: Vasu Atluri, Asha Thakur, Subhash Arora, Anil Gupta, and, Govind Sathpathy

Others: Nirmala Chhibber, Varinder Narang and Kamal Kharbanda

Agenda: Attached

Meeting was called to order by the President (Ravi Aggarwal) at 7:00 PM.

1. Approval of the agenda: Motion was made by Mina Bhagdev to accept the agenda with exception to item number 3 and was seconded by Uma Ramchandra. It was carried unanimously.
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on July 20, 2008: Motion was made by Ashwani Bakshi to approve the minutes and was seconded by Desh Ahuja. It was carried unanimously.
3. It was decided, everyone will get five minutes to tell their views on Satyanarayanji and Padmavati placement and Balaji abhishekam issue and at the end board can take vote to reach a permanent solution.
 - Desh Ahuja said, it is not proper to keep murtis in the closet or garage. We need to find an appropriate place to keep murtis in the temple for worship even if it is not on the current altar.
 - Uma Ramchandra said, we have already talked about keeping both murtis in the main temple before, I don't know why are we wasting time again in the same discussion. We are already 3 to 6 months late in placing these murtis in the main temple as per previous puja committee discussion. Both murtis should be in the temple and not in the closet or garage. In Ekta mandir Balaji abhishekam is done properly but not in our temple, which is unfortunate. Navagrah gods can go with the main temple but main gods can't go with Navagrah god. Main alter in the Hindu Temple is full and it is beautiful and we do not need to touch it. These murtis can be placed on the floor level (not on the alter), for example where the cabinet is next to Jaganath Ji's mandap. Both the murtis need to be in the temple and not necessarily on the alter. Regarding Abhishekam of Shri Bala Ji she said she would leave it to the board to decide how it can be done in a practical way.
 - Mina Bhagdev said, lets don't go back to past, (it is not constructive) we need to go forward. We can always undo the past and go forward with our current need.

Everybody agrees it is not right to keep murtis in the closet, we need to find proper space for both murtis.

- Deepak Malhotra said we don't need to call Nabagrath temple, we can say new temple.
- Dilip Parekh said, murtis should be inside the temple. They can be anywhere in the hall.
- Ashwani Bakshi said, Satyanarayanji and Padmavatiji was not in the original plan. At that time Vasu Atluri said, if Padmavatiji will come to us we can give it to other temple. Before the order placed for Satyanarayanji, it was decided that Satyanarayanji idol will not be placed on the alter but will be taken out during monthly puja day and will be placed back in the cabinet after the puja. November 25th, 2007 board meeting minutes talks about it. We should respect what is done by other board directors in past and we should not try to change that decision.
- Ravinder Aggarwal said, he is agreed with Ashwani Bakshi. We need to find right place for both murtis. We can only implement temporary solution if we have a permanent solution in place. To solve the space issue, it was decided to add more space, that is to built a new temple and place all murtis respectfully.
- Asha Jain said, we should not go back to past, however any future board can undo everything at anytime. We have to be respectful and find a proper place. It is better for us to take care of it right now. We should try to accommodate murtis in the current space we have right now. Pandit Ji can comment but these murtis can not be placed on the alter because sthapna of other murtis has already been done.
- Krishna Paliwal said, Nirmala Chhibber told him that HTA board promised her to have proper placement for Satyanarayanji in the main temple and that Satyanarayn Ji's sthapna will be done. In Houston Texas he asked Mishra Ji who had come for murti sthapna about murti placement issues, as per them murtis can be placed in the temple anywhere. It is not disrespect to keep any god in an extension temple space. Guru murtis can not go along with regular temple murtis. He also stated that we should focus our efforts on building the "New Temple".
- Prakash Sahoo said, within the temple complex we can have several temples, just like in Puri Jaganath temple in Orissa. We should not make an issue that current building is the main temple and all gods need to be in the same building. Let's have new temple buildings within the temple complex so we can expand and accommodate any future needs.
- Kamal Kharbanda said, we can have separate temple within the main temple building just like we saw in Memphis (TN).
- Nirmala Chhibber said, every major puja we do in temple has a murti and its place in alter, why not Satyanarayanji? Why we are ignoring it, we did not put photo of Satyanarayanji in our temple calendar, we do not have photo of it in our HTA website. We never ordered any clothes or jewelry for Satyanarayanji. When it was decided which murtis to place in alter I was not the part of the board but I told Uma Ramchandra to take care of this issue, as she was the member of the board. Uma Ramchandra responded that, on behalf of Puja committee and as a chairperson she has expressed Mrs. Chibber's concern to the board and encouraged her to attend Board meetings and bring the subject and clarify herself.

- Varinder Narang said, please focus on what we are going to do in next five years. Lets do proper pran pertistha of any additional murtis and grow as we go.
- Conclusion: **Motion** was made by Ravinder Aggarwal to make a layout of new temple for placement of new murtis. This task should be given to a six people task force (they don't have to be board members). Task force to come up with the layout plan in four weeks along with finding temporary location for Padmabatiji and Satyanarayanji. Task force members are Ravinder Aggarwal, Nirmala Chhibber, Varinder Narang, Uma Ramchandra, Krishna Paliwal and Asha Jain. Desh Ahuja seconded this motion. It was carried unanimously.
- **Motion** was made by Uma Ramchandra that, until we find the permanent location for Padmavatiji and Satyanarayanji, we would place both murtis temporarily in the main temple hall immediately. Both murtis will go to the permanent location upon new temple is ready and was seconded by Ravinder Aggarwal. Mina Bhagdev objected the motion however it was over ride by other board members by 1: 8 votes. It was carried unanimously. It was agreed that the task force formed above will also come up with the recommendation for the temporary location of the murtis while the permanent solution is being implemented.
- 4. Closure: Mina Bhagdev made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Deepak Malhotra. The meeting adjourned at 9.08 PM.