

Minutes of the BOD of HTA meeting held on April 05, 2009

Present: Asha Jain, Anil Gupta, Prakash Sahoo, Mina Bhagdev, Uma Ramchandra, Ashok Verma, Bibhuti Panda and Subhash Arora

Absent: Dilip Parekh, Ravinder Aggarwal, Kamal Kharbanda, Jitendra Kabra, Desh Ahuja and Kuldip Verma.

Agenda: Hard copy was provided

Meeting was called to order by the President (Asha Jain) at 2:03 PM.

The agenda was modified to add item 14 Closure.

1. Approval of the agenda: Motion was made by Subhash Arora to accept the agenda and was seconded by P. Sahoo. It was carried unanimously.
2. Approval of the minutes of previous two meetings: Hard copies of the minutes were provided. A proposal was made by S. Arora that in order to preserve board's time, the approval of the minutes be put off till the next meeting. The motion was seconded by P. Sahoo and carried. Some BOD also suggested that the minutes be sent via e-mail and the BOD should read it before the meeting to accelerate the approval process.
3. Second Priest for the Temple: There was an extended discussion on this subject specifically involving visiting Pt. Sharma who has been here for over two weeks and about inviting Pt. Abhay from Delaware.

Asha Jain stated that Pt. Abhay was born in Orissa but studied in North and worked in Delhi. Also he has indicated that he is looking for us to sponsor him for Green card and also he can only come here for max of 2-3 days.

Visiting Pt. Sharma (who is from Southern part of India but has worked in the North and is fluent in Hindi), has R1 VISA till Nov 2009 but will need to be transferred and renewed (cost ~\$2500). Asha Jain has told him that we only have a temporary position as we do not offer any permanent position.

There was also discussion among BODs that Pt. Sharma seems good we should retain him and move forward to support his application for renewal of R1 VISA. Some members felt that for the temple to serve larger community, we should strive to have diversity among the priests as many devotees feel close to a specific priest because of priest's familiarity with regional customs.

All agreed that Pt. Sharma has easy style and cooperates well with Senior Pt. Satyanarayan and majority felt that we should just go with him. However, BOD also agreed on the need for diversity and with that Asha Jain was authorized to speak to Pt. Sharma for retaining him for three months to see if agrees to it or not. If not, we may

consider retaining him for longer till we find a different Pt. with different cultural background.

4. Pooja Committee Update:

- i. **Samuhik Satyanarayan** pooja – May 9 (Saturday), event coordinators – Prakash Sahoo and Mina Bhagdev
- ii. **Snan Purnima** – June 7 (first Sunday) to be held in the evening. And **RathYatra** to be held on June 28 Sunday. Even coordinators Bibhuti Panda and Anil Gupta.
- iii. **Kalyan Utsav**: Week of Sept 19, event coordinators Uma Ramchandra and Asha Jain
- iv. **Gita Pravachan**: Group from Bangalore would like to conduct the Gita Pravachan in English. BOD is agreeable.

5. Construction Activities:

- i. Kitchen floor and dining room shades: Estimated cost for 300 square feet of floor is \$1200 (Granite tiles at \$2/square feet, labor and supplies. The shades cost ~\$300. Motion was tabled by Mina Bhagdev to authorize these expenses and it was seconded by B. Panda. Motion was carried unanimously.
- ii. Demolition of the wall in the pooja hall: After extended discussion among the BOD, Asha Jain was asked to speak with Prakash Deshmukh to verify if he would be willing to inspect and sign off the paper work for presentation to the city if the actual work is performed by the volunteers.

6. Treasurer's report: The actual bank balance after payment of the 20% of the outstanding personal loan (\$15K) from individuals, is \$34,741.

7. Fundraising: Anup Jalota is available but the cost would be ~\$20K. BOD felt that Anup Jalota though good is no longer a strong audience puller. So it was decided to explore other alternates with some local/regional group of singers with dinner.

16. Closure: Subhash Arora made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ashok Verma. The meeting adjourned at 4.30 PM.