

Agenda for Meeting of the HTA Board of Directors
Date: Monday August 24th, 2009
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Present: Subhash Arora, Srini Dasri, Ashok Verma, Prakash Sahoo, Asha Jain, Bhibhuti Panda, Uma Ramchandra, Dilip Parekh, and Jitendra Kabra

1. Call to order President (1 minute) President called the meeting to order at 7: 42pm and asked Raxha Bhagdev, Secretary to take over the meeting
2. Approval of Agenda (1 minute)
Ashok Verma: Motion to approve agenda
Prakash Sahoo: Seconded
Carried Unanimous
3. Clarification of current Board and executive members and their positions (1 minute)
Letterhead passed around to establish clarification of Board members and participation

Subhash Arora: Motion: The Board of directors re-affirms its confidence in Raxha Bhagdev to discharge the responsibilities as secretary of HTA
Seconded: Jitendra Kabra
Carried unanimously

The post for Joint secretary was discussed; there were no takers for this position.

4. Proposal from Ravi Aggarwal (or appointed representative) to send letter(s) to sponsor Jai Gopalji. (in order to clear confusion that exists on this topic, the Board requests that they be updated with a history of events, the implications of becoming sponsors in terms of finances, roles and responsibilities, and a clear purpose for obtaining this Visa as well as proposed duration of the visit) 5 minutes.

Ravi Aggarwal is not present to address the background or other clarifications sought by BODs.

Asha Jain filled the Board in on the recent background. Jai Gopalji has been in touch with HTA, his Visa appointment is coming up and he needs letters to support his Visa application. One a personal letter inviting him to be a guest speaker for HTA. The second, a sponsorship letter to the INS.

Note: The Board was approached about this situation but were unable to come to a decision at the last meeting, hence this emergency meeting was requested by Ravi Aggarwal and Uma Ramchandra instead of addressing the issue through e-mails.

Umaji said the pandit was interviewed by Bakshi Pitaji almost 5 years ago. She was aware of board members interviewing him by phone about 4 years ago but, given the time that has elapsed since then, her memory is vague. Jai Gopalji's qualifications involve the ability to conduct major poojas, he is a reputed pundit. His qualifications are not in question. At that time we really needed a priest and that need was urgent. At that time he did not get the Visa.

It was pointed out that in more recent times, we have interviewed other priests, one in particular, who, according to a phone interview was very good but when we met him in person, we did not feel he was the person for the job. Therefore phone interviews should not be relied on when filling a position for a priest. That said, Jai Gopalji was interviewed by Bakshi Pitaji personally, and gave Jai Gopalji the highest recommendation.

Jitendra Kabra pointed out that we want to increase diversity of temple, Jai Gopal is more than qualified for this position, we can send letter that clearly states that we will sponsor for a specified amount of time, provide him with food and board, he is responsible for getting his own insurance.

Input from Board members (15 minutes, max)

Each member voiced their opinion regarding the matters raised.

Proposal of motion(s) (if required) 1 minute

Subhash Arora: Motion: As there is no vacancy for a priest at this time, there is no need to or look for a priest at this time. Subject will be revisited when, and if the situation changes.

Ashok Verma: Seconded

Jitendra Kabra: Opposed this motion as it is not visionary for the temple, it is more reactive than pro-active and goes against the discussion that we keep the pipeline for new priests open. (During the input phase of this meeting, it was generally agreed that we keep potential candidates for the priest position available in case one of our existing priests leaves and creates a vacancy)

Prakash Sahoo: Agrees with motion but requests that we send letter to Jai Goapl thanking him for his time & interest in Temple.

Dilip agrees with the Motion and Prakash's suggestion to send a letter.

Srinivas Dasri agrees with motion but requests that we send a courtesy letter

Uma Ramchandra agrees and wants thank you letter to go

Votes: 9 for
1 against (Jitendra Kabra)

The secretary will draft a thank you letter and send this

5. Closure
Raxha Bhagdev: Motion to close the meeting
Seconded: Prakash Sahoo
Carried unanimously 9:06pm