

Minutes of Meeting of the HTA Board of Directors

Date: September 6, 2009

Location: HTA Office

Present: Srini Dasri, Ashok Verma, Prakash Sahoo, Asha Jain, Bibhuti Panda, Uma Ramchandra, Kamal Kharbanda, Anil Gupta, Ravi Aggarwal and Subhash Arora (author)

Absent: K. Verma, Jitendra Kabra, Raxha Bhagdev, Desh Ahuja and Dilip Parikh

Others Present: A. Bakshi, V. Narang, Ashok Jain

Meeting was called to order by the President at 2:20 PM. Since the HTA secretary was not present, President asked Subhash Arora to chair the meeting and take the minutes. S. Arora then sought & received the verbal approval of the present BODs to chair the meeting as proposed by the President.

Since the printed copies of the agenda were not available, then agenda was read and recorded as follows:

1. Approval of the agenda;
2. Approval of the minutes of June, July and August board meetings;
3. Treasurer's report;
4. Puja committee report including the report/recommendations from the task force on Pran Pratishtha & location of Balajis utsov murtis;
5. Jalaram Jayanti function at HTA;
6. Shiv Vivah Clarification;
7. President's update on discussion with devotes;
8. Alarm system for the temple;
9. Going green;
10. Fund raiser event;
11. Varia;
12. Closure.

Discussion:

1. Approval of the agenda: motion by Kamal Kharbanda; Seconded by Srini Dasri Carried unanimously

2a. Approval of the June meeting: the following changes were made to the minutes:

Change: 'Kharbandar' to 'Kharbanda'; 'Ramachandra' to 'Ramchandra'; 'accept Ravi Sharma's resignation' to 'Ashok Verma's resignation' 'Raviji' to 'Ravi Sharma'

Motion was made by B. Panda to approve the amended minutes and was seconded by P. Sahoo. Carried unanimously

2b. Approval of the July meetings. Recorded minutes had only 7 BODs present while 8 are needed for the quorum. Those who were present stated that one of the board member was on the phone but could not re-call the name. Minutes of the July meeting were recorded by Jitendra Kabra and since he was not present, it was decided to put off the approval of the July

minutes. S. Arora was then tasked to ask Jitendra Kabra to verify his records to update the subject minutes.

2c. Approval of the August minutes: Board made the following changes to the minutes: change 'Kharbandar' to 'Kharbanda'; 'Ramachandra' to 'Ramchanra'; 'K. Vera' in absent to 'K. verma'; 'Subhas' to 'Subhash'.

Delete ' Board members please arrive by 9:00 am as this is a very special event and Umaji will be slightly delayed'.

Change 'sub-committee' to 'task force'; 'Ashjia' to 'Asha ji'.

Statement ' Oriya Association will lend us a canopy for the Pran Pratishta Havan' appears twice. Delete it from the bottom of page 2.

Change 'Seonded' on page 3 to 'Seconded'.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made b P. Sahoo and seconded by S. Arora. It was carried unanimously.

3. Treasurer's report: Current balance as of 9/5/09 is \$30333

Income for August (up to 8/17/09) \$15930

Expenses for August (up to 8/31/09) \$18200 (includes \$7576 for the wall removal)

Of the promised donations towards wall removal, \$2600 have so far been collected and \$4900 yet to be collected.

Painting of the wall was not in the original scope of the work but has been contributed by a donor.

Anil collects the hundi twice a month. Members cautioned that there have been thefts at other religious institutions (because of the general economic situation) and we need to be cautious to protect our assets (consider increasing frequency of hundi collection or securing the hundi.

4. Puja Committee Report:

Bala ji kalyan utosav:

- i) Invitation cards are ready but need volunteers to place the mailing addresses, postage stamps and to mail the same. We also need to include a small return envelop for people to mail their donation to HTA;
- ii) List of items needed defined and assigned to volunteers to arrange and/or buy the required stuff;
- iii) The old water filter in the old kitchen needs to removed and discarded to make space for the supplies – Action – P. Sahoo
- iv) Need volunteers to manage the events over the 4 day even (min 2 BOD for each day)
 - a. Sept 19 – Bibhuti Panda & Srini Dasri
 - b. Sept 20 – B. Panda, S. Arora, P. Sahoo and Kamal Kharbanda
 - c. Sept 26 – S. Dasri, Asha Jain
 - d. Sept 27 – P. Sahoo, K. Kharbanda

v) Canopy set up is needed by evening of Sept 18. B. Panda to lead it but needs at least 6 volunteers.

vi) Lights set up is needed by Sept 17 – coordinator TBD

vii) Jhanki set up coordinator Uma Ramchandra

viii) MC – need for each of the 4 days. People assigned are Uma Ramchandra, S. Arora, Asha Jain, K. Kharbanda. Need more volunteers to support just in case help of these individuals is needed some where else.

viii) Pt. Kirin from the Ray road temple will also be joining us on 9/27 for Kalyan Utsov as we will need at least three priests. Proposed dakshana for the invited priest is \$101

ix) Jitendra Kabra to send e-mails to all the HTA members and then send a reminder before the event. Uma Ramchandra has sent a personal e-mail to South Indians known to her

x) Need a make a small bed/palang to take the utsov murtis around the temple after the Pran Pratishta by the volunteers. Action: V. Narang and U. Ramchandra

xi) Deep tray to perform abhishekam of the utsov murtis. Ravi Aggarwal to speak to Pt. Ji to understand the requirements (plastic vs metal & size etc) and arrange it.

xii) Ramayan recital during Navaratri – daily from Sept 19 to 26

xiii) During Navaratri, many devotees visit the temple and ask to perform extended puja through Pt. Ji. For this we should advise the devotees of suggested donation of \$101. During this period many devotees perform Mata puja and those who offer a sari to mataji and offer \$151, HTA should in return one of the sari previously offered to Durga mata ji

xiv) Task Force recommendation:

- a. Task force was formed by the board to address the issues raised at the BOD meeting of Aug 9, 2009;
- b. Task force members were Ravi Aggarwal, Ashwani Bakshi, Varinder Narang, Asha Jain and Desh Ahuja;
- c. Desh Ahuja was unable to participate due health reasons;
- d. Task force addressed the issues of 1. Who is in the Bala ji pariwar; 2. Should we do chal pratishta or pran pratishta; 3. where to place the murtis and the 4. direction of the murtis.
- e. Bala ji pariwar was defined as Bhoo devi, Sri Devi and Bala ji;
- f. 2 of the 3 priests consulted recommended that we need to do Pran Pratishta for the kalyan Utsov;
- g. Murtis can be placed anywhere in the temple but the devotees should not be able to touch the murtis after the Pran Pratishta (but Pt. Ji can touch them);
- h. Any direction is fine;
- i. Priests were also asked that since we already did the Pran Pratishta of Bala ji, can we then only Pran Pratishta of Bhoo dvi and Sri devi? It was recommended that for the kalyan Utsov, we need to do the Pran Pratishta of the three murtis.

- j. Task force recommended that I) we place the three murtis on the same pedestal as Padmawati but enclosed it with plexiglass so that devotees can not touch it; II) Utsov murti of Bala ji of which pran Pratishta is already done be used for kalyan utsov.

After extensive discussion, all those listed above as present (board and others) generally agreed to perform the Pran Pratisha of the Pariwar utsov murtis (Bala ji, Bhoo devi & Sri devi) for the kalyan utsov and then place these three murtis where the Padmawati murti is and enclose it with plexiglass. Where as the current Bala ji utsov murti for which pran pratishta was done earlier will remain on the alter. The one dissenting vote to this course of action was voiced by Uma Ramachandra, who proposed that after Pranprathishta Utsav Murtis should be placed anywhere on the alter so that they can be kept sacred and that daily puja can be done properly.

5. Jalaram Jayanti: The jalaram group would like to celebrate the event at the HTA on Oct 25 from 2 to 9 PM. They expect about 300 – 700 people for the event. Board asked Asha Jain to convey BOD's consent and coordinate the event with them. Board also asked Asha Jain to convey that though HTA does not charge any fixed charges for using the HTA but does appreciate donation towards covering its expenses. Additionally, any aarti money should be deposited in the hundi.
6. Shiv Vivah Clarification: A question had been asked if HTA had performed shiv vivah earlier this year. It was clarified that Swami Vedanti ji maharaj had pravachan on lord shiva including shiv vivah but no ceremony had been conducted in the temple.
7. President's report: Kamal Kharbanda first briefed the board that she had called a meeting of the few board members with the three past presidents to clarify & resolve the misunderstanding which resulted in some harshly worded e-mails. In attendance were Asha Jain, Kamal Kharbanda, Subhash Arora, Ravi Aggarwal, Ashwani Bakshi, Varinder Narang and Ashok Jain. Anil Gupta and Prakash Sahoo were also invited but were unable to attend. The discussion took place on Sept. 5, 2009 (Saturday at 6 PM) at the HTA. Asha Jain then summarized the discussion and stated that all had agreed to show due respect to each other and work collectively for the benefit of the temple.
8. Alarm System to enhance security of the premises. The cost stated was about \$25-30/month. It was also state that we have three glass doors that can be broken and we should look in to installing a re-inforced security doors. Ravi Aggarwal took the action to follow up on it.
9. Going Green: We should ask city to provide a re-cycled contained for discarding paper etc. Also, it was mentioned that some devotee is willing to donate steel thalis but we will need to install a commercial dish washer. Board agreed to have follow on discussion on this subject.
10. Fund Raiser: Earlier proposed date of Oct 18 will not work because of deepawali but could do it two week later. Asha Jain to further explore it.
11. Varia
 - i) BOD were advised that Desh Ahuja is not well. Members may want to call him to wish him well;

- ii) A/C filters are not being changed at regular intervals
- iii) A thank you letter from Mesa Public Schools was received in appreciation of the donation of back packs;
- iv) We need to get the cost estimate of installing the shower in wash room of the new property so that if needed we could move the priest from first property to the new location.

12. Closure: Motion was made by Kamal Kharbanda to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by B. Panda and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5 PM