

## HTA Board November 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes

- **Attendees:** Rajashree Panda, Jogeshwar Rath, Rina Narang, Madhu Aggarwal, Anita Ramaiah, Surendra Singh, Rohit Aggarwal on phone (**Seven in attendance**)
- **Absent:** Kulbhushan Chhibber, Alisha Kharbanda, Vivek Gupta, Sumana Ghosh, Anu Kalyanam, Sudeep Mehta
- **Guests:** Ravi Aggarwal, Sharmishtha Satapathy, Shashi Tuli, and Kamal Kharbanda
- **Meeting time: Start:** 2:15 PM **Finish:** 4:52 PM
- **Meeting Location:** Annapurna Hall at Hindu Temple of Arizona
- **Final Meeting Agenda:**
  1. Approval of November 11 meeting agenda.
  2. Approval of meeting Minutes for 09/15/12, and 10/14/12
  3. Treasurer's report including cost neutral maintenance report. (Sumana)
  4. Approval of \$1100 Anantacharyaji.
  5. Election/AGM date. (Vivek)
  6. Election officer Selection (Vivek)
  7. Inputs for contents for President's report and Treasurer's report for AGM. (Vivek)
  8. Recommendations for a CPA and expense approval for auditing the temple as accounts for the 2012 year. (Vivek)
  9. Root Cause Analysis for studying why the 2012 HTA board was not informed about the october2011 resolution passed by board majority for Murti Sthapna during the July 15 meeting before asking the current board for re-voting the same resolution. (Surendra Singh)
  10. All proposed changes to By Laws and Constitution must be presented to the board before they are put to vote and voting in person only at the AGM. (Madhu Aggarwal)
  11. Nomination Committee Chair and member.(Rina)
  12. New Rath construction (Dr. Rath)
  13. Puja fee structure issue. (Rohit)
  14. Altar Issue (Rohit)
- **Meeting Notes:**
  1. Quorum requirements were met for the meeting and meeting started at 2:15 PM.
  2. HTA Board meeting was called to order by Surendra Singh, Vice President, in absence of President as per HTA Constitution and By Laws and per email from HTA Board President -Vivek Gupta as well.
  3. Surendra Singh reiterated that the observers can observe the proceedings but can speak after the permission of the chair only.
- **Motions Approved:**
  - 1) **Motion to approve agenda:** Proposed by Rina Narang, seconded by Anita Ramaiah. All voted YES. Motion passed unanimously.
  - 2) Anita read the minutes of meeting held on 10/14/12.

Surendra Singh proposed for approving the meeting minutes, and Madhu Aggarwal seconded it. All present voted YES. **Minutes were approved.**

**Note:** - Surendra Singh informed the board that while Vivek had submitted several subjects on agenda at least 14 days before the meeting date but was not able to attend the meeting. Vivek also missed two other meetings of the core committee earlier including the latest held Nov 4<sup>th</sup> wherein discussions were held related to murti sthapna and inputs from devotees were discussed.
  - 3) Anita read the revised minutes (excluding those items that were not discussed during the meeting but were added) for the meeting held on 9/15/2012. She explained that treasurer report and remarks about nomination committee were not discussed in the meeting and were added later. It was proposed to approve the Board Sept 15 meeting minutes excluding two items: 1) some items in Treasure report, and 2) Nomination Committees related discussions.

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Motion to approve the revised meeting minutes (excluding two items above) was proposed by Surendra Singh and was seconded by Rajashree Panda. All voted YES. **Motion was passed.**

4. Treasurer's report:

Anita Ramaiah presented as Sumana Ghosh did not attend the meeting even though she sent email earlier stating that she will be attending the meeting from 2 PM to 3 PM. **A copy is attached to these minutes.** The financial statement was discussed. Anita Ramaiah pointed out that while the statement showed several amounts received from various devotees for these cost neutral projects, there was no way to authenticate the same. Copies of checks received for these donations for specific projects are required by the board before the statement can be approved.

**Action item:** Sumana Ghosh to provide copies of checks listed in the statement to the board for review.

5) Approval of \$1100 for Shri Anantacharya Ji's pravachan.

Motion to approve was made by Surendra Singh and was seconded by Anita Ramaiah. All voted YES.

**Motion was approved.**

**Action Item:** Vivek Gupta will be the coordinator for this event, and he will take care of all logistics for the event.

8) Elections and AGM date(s):

The board was informed by Rohit Aggarwal that Vivek Gupta wanted to hold the AGM/elections in January, 2013 as he thought that there was not enough time to hold them in Dec, 2012. Surendra Singh suggested that Vivek Gupta should present the pressing reasons to the Board why these events cannot be held in December. Dr. Jogesh Rath also suggested that if the president cannot hold the meeting in December, President should assign somebody from the board, the vice president, to conduct this meeting.

Since Vivek was not present, his views were not available for discussions. Board discussed this item and it was proposed to have the AGM and elections on 12/16/12.

Motion was proposed by Surendra Singh to have the AGM and elections on 12/16/12 and was seconded by Rajashree Panda. All voted YES. **Motion was passed.**

9) Selection of election committee chair:

Madhu Aggarwal proposed Kamal Kharbanda for election committee chair person and was seconded by Anita Ramaiah.

All voted YES. **The motion was passed.**

Kamal Kharbanda accepted to be the chair person of the election committee.

10) Inputs for contents for president's report and treasurer's report for AGM:

This agenda was requested by Vivek Gupta and since he was not present in the meeting, it was decided to move this item to the next meeting.

11) Recommendation for CPA and expense approval for auditing the temple accounts for 2012.

It was suggested that names of some CPAs not affiliated with the HTA should be sent to the Board Members to select a CPA for auditing the financial statements.

Anita stated that the treasurer should be present to answer any questions and provide documentation, including cancelled checks, for the audit. The audit needs to be completed before the AGM scheduled Dec 16, 2012.

**Action Item:** Treasurer to provide the statement of accounts and supporting documentation for audit as soon as possible.

12) Motion to find a CPA not affiliated with HTA to do quick book auditing for 2012 was proposed by Surendra Singh and seconded by Madhu Aggarwal.

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All voted YES. **Motion was carried.**

- 13) Motion to approve an expense of \$1000 for the above audit was proposed by Jogesh Rath, and was seconded by Surendra Singh. All voted YES. **Motion was carried.**

- 14) All proposed changes to By Laws and Constitution must be presented to the board before they are put to vote and voting in person only at the AGM.

Motion was proposed by Surendra Singh that all proposed changes to the constitution and Bylaws should be brought to the HTA board for discussions before voting at the AGM. Seconded by Rina Narang.

All voted YES. **Motion was approved.**

- 15) The board felt that the only fair way to approve the proposed changes to the constitution and By Laws is by voting in person. This will also give an opportunity to the devotees to ask questions and make sure that everybody understood the proposed changes.

Motion was proposed by Jogesh Rath that no email voting or electronic voting or both shall be permitted for proposed changes to the HTA Constitution and By-laws, and that all voting must be done in person at the AGM and was seconded by Rina Narang.

All voted YES and **the motion was approved.**

- 16) A motion was proposed by Jogesh Rath that as co-chair of the communication committee the board authorizes Anita Ramaiah to send mass email to devotees informing about these motions. The board also asked Anita Ramaiah to inform Sudeep Mehta to post this information on the HTA web site. The motion was seconded by Rajashree Panda. All voted YES and **the motion was approved.**

- 17) Nomination Committee Chair:

Rina Narang informed the board that she had withdrawn her name as a Nomination Committee Chair. Rohit had informed the board earlier that Sudeep Mehta had also withdrawn his name also.

Surendra Singh proposed that Jogesh Rath be the chair person of the Nomination Committee and was seconded by Anita Ramaiah.

All Voted YES. **Motion was passed.** Jogesh Rath accepted to be the chairperson of the nomination committee.

- 18) New Rath construction

Jogesh Rath informed the board that the devotees of Lord Jagannath Ji would like to build a new Rath for the Rath Yatra as the old Rath is worn out. The approximate total cost would be \$10,000, and it will all be collected from donations. This will be a cost neutral project to the HTA.

Motion to authorize Jogesh Rath to raise funds for the new Rath and organize help to make new Rath (no cost to the temple) was proposed by Jogesh Rath and was seconded by Rajashree Panda.

All voted YES. **Motion was approved.**

- 19) Puja fee structure:

Rohit suggested that the puja fees for various events at the temple should be revised so that they are a little lower than other temples. This will help us attract more devotees and events to the temple. Rajashree Panda stated that the analysis was already done by Sudeep Mehta, and that the new fee structure is already posted on HTA website.

- 20) Alter issues:

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Rohit informed the board that some devotees want to go on the alter to touch the God's feet, and this sometimes creates a problem for Pundit Ji. Some board members mentioned that there is already a sign informing the devotees that they cannot go on the altar. It was decided to place the sign in a location where it is more prominent. Surendra Singh offered to follow up with this issue.

- 21) Root Cause Analysis (RCA) and Root Cause Corrective Actions (RCCA) for studying why the 2012 HTA board was not informed about the October 2011 resolution passed by board majority for Murti Sthapna during the July 15 meeting before asking the current board for re-voting the same resolution.

Surendra Singh offered the entire board; especially those board members who have not been able attend Core Committee (CC) and some board meetings, to explain the entire processes used to arrive the final decisions related to Murti Sthapna Project. During this, Rajashree and other board members asked several questions, and Anita Ramaiah responded to each questions and each member was satisfied with Anita's response.

Since the part of agenda #16 was for President- Vivek Gupta to respond, and he was not in the attendance, therefore this item was not discussed in details. Surendra Singh posed the following two questions to Vivek Gupta and other board members who supported for Option "A" during July 15 Board meeting and now oppose it:

1. What has changed since July 15 meeting for some members who supported Murti Sthapna Option "A" and now oppose it?
2. Why president or secretary didn't not inform the 2012 board before voting the same resolution that was passed twice (2010 and again 2011) before related to Murti Sthapna Option "A"?

In response to first question, Rajashree answered the following:

1. According to constitution only President, Secretary, Treasure can open an account in the bank.
2. On July 15th meeting I said yes to Option B.
3. My suggestion is - we shouldn't remove Satyanarayana Ji and Padmavati Ji from our main hall...as we are doing puja to these two Gods for last several years, though she respects board majority decisions and will go by it.

In response to Rajashree, Anita Ji explained the HTA Board Majority resolutions passed earlier that were related to Rajashree comments 1-3. The meeting ended with this.

Surendra Singh moved motion for adjourning meeting and was seconded by Rajashree Panda. Meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM.