

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action(s)
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Bharatiya Temple of Lansing: Annual General Body Meeting
Dec 1st 2013 Time: 2- 3 PM Place: Temple
Present: Ashokji, Rameshji, Bidhanji, Mathiji, Sarala, Vaniji, and Quorum
Absent: Madanji, Meenaji, Padduji
Reported by; Sarala

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Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, Prayer, and declaring of Quorum to conduct the meeting • Annual Report by the Chairperson or a designee • Annual Report by the treasurer or a designee • Presentation of Annual Budget • Election of Board of Trustees • Open forum for discussing and adopting suggestions from the membership for improving the status and activities of the community • Adjournment 	
Chairperson's address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashokji welcomed the quorum after the prayer and thanked the board members and both priests for their time and support • Ashokji said, as a board “we are committed to 3 goals”. 1st Goal 	

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	<p>Keeping temple neat and clean. Multiple maintenance improvement projects reflects that. Entire duct systems have been cleaned. Entire temple has been painted with minor repairs to different areas. New roof has been installed. New carpet has been installed in the library and reading room. Creation of prasad room with new furniture and installation of wash room which was desire of Pandithji and Shastriji to take care of god's utensils. New signs and estate gift recognition board has been installed. Completion of Ratham. Multiple items have been upgraded. To quote few, coat and shoe room area has been updated, lighting system which will save energy, dining room chair and tables, donor recorgniztion board. Some are under progress 1) with the lead of Adithya and Jaglan changes for havan area to control the smoke by replacing the exhaust system. 2) Painting the sanctum area. 3) As recommended by priests, we need to install a “OPEN” sign in the front (north facing) door to show devotees that temple is open (even when the parking lot is empty).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Goal • How can we serve temple to make it as a great place for enhancing our spiritual life. Ashokji commented, Shastriji and Pandithji are doing an excellent job. Whenever members visit temple to take few minutes to thank and to show gratitude towards their work. • 3rd Goal. • How can we make our temple financially viable. We did multiple things – lowered the interest rate from 7% to little less than 4% which will help us tremendously. We strengthened fund raising efforts. We also came up with the idea of estate gifts, which was given by Sanjay Gupta who is dean of business school. Main idea of estate gift is to preserve our heritage for our future generations and how we can keep the temple financially viable on the long run. Mortgage has been reduced from \$600K to little over \$400K.. This is in addition to multiple improvement projects which costed around \$85K.which were 	

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	<p>very much needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the help of our devotees there is an additional goal to have our temple debt free in 4-5 yrs. • Ashokji commented, “ In summary your temple is doing great with all your help and the credit goes to all of you. For committing your 3 T's – time, talent and treasure (as quoted by Sanjay Gupta). He added, 4th T is the temple for which all 3 Ts are available plenty in this town and I am proud of it. • He ended by saying “last but not the least, ask not what temple can do for you, ask what I can do for temple”. • He appreciated outgoing board members Rameshji and Padduji's contribution to temple. 	
Rameshji's Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rameshji's words • “ I have been serving on temple board for last two years. This is like a championship team almost as good as Spartans. There are 2 key players who will stick out, although everybody have contributed significantly to this job. Number one is our running back Madan Bhai, believe me temple book keeping is big job. Not only he kept us in line, I was in maintenance whenever I needed money for maintenance issues Madan Bhai would always ask us to get 3 quotes. He has managed the money well, he has kept book keeping very well. Of all the things he has done, he has guided us well. • If at any time, we did anything wrong he was not afraid of saying you are wrong. • Next is our quarter back Dr Ashok Gupta. He is an incredible person and a close friend of mine. I have to say, he spends more time on temple than his day time job. We get at least 10 e-mails from him every day. Any time we go on walk , we talk about temple. He has made a significant contribution to the temple, he has united our 	

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	<p>community and he has worked hard for that and has done very good job in fund raising. He had tirelessly worked for temple viability for our future generation. If you look around temple you can see his finger prints everywhere “</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rameshji, thanked Ashokji for taking time and volunteering for community and temple. He said, “ he would be available whenever Ashokji needs his help” 																										
Annual Report by the treasurer or a designee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In absence of Madhanji (Treasurer) Bidanji presented Treasurer's report <p>Treasurers report / Proposed Annual Budget for 2013: Given by Madanji</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current total Bank Balance is \$89,919.17 Total Mortgage Balance for Temple is \$429,507 (House=\$39,551 & Temple= \$389,956); last GBM total was \$569,289.23 <table border="1" data-bbox="611 771 1186 909"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">TEMPLE & PRIEST HOUSE MORTGAGE BALANCE</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>6/30/2011</th> <th>12/31/2011</th> <th>12/31/2012</th> <th>As of now</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>House</td> <td>\$58,730</td> <td>\$55,078</td> <td>\$46,977</td> <td>\$39,551.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Temple</td> <td>\$562,337</td> <td>\$552,618</td> <td>\$452,497</td> <td>\$389,956.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$621,067</td> <td>\$607,696</td> <td>\$499,474</td> <td>\$429,507</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Income this year has been = \$325K versus \$255K last year (27.45% change). Additionally this year we still have pending pledges of \$29K - \$30K so far. total expenses were \$165K during 2013 versus \$135K during 2012 (-22%). 2013 expenses include multiple major projects. <p>2014 budget of \$240K is proposed-same as last year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is expenditure of more than \$20K we have made sure there is always 4 months operation expense available. Mortgage payments were made regularly in addition \$30K was made towards the principal. Keeping in mind of making temple debt free in 4-5 years Total income for 2013 was \$325K which was 27% more than last year's (2012) at \$255K. 	TEMPLE & PRIEST HOUSE MORTGAGE BALANCE						6/30/2011	12/31/2011	12/31/2012	As of now	House	\$58,730	\$55,078	\$46,977	\$39,551.11	Temple	\$562,337	\$552,618	\$452,497	\$389,956.32	Total	\$621,067	\$607,696	\$499,474	\$429,507	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still we need to collect \$29-30K in pledges for 2013 which we can pay more towards the mortgage. • Bidhanji, thanked Ram Palji and Samip Bhai in stepping up and helping with the accounts in the absence of Mandanji who will be returning on Dec 9th • Bidhanji proposed \$240K for the budget of 2014 since monthly expenses are approximately \$20K just like it was done in the past. • Sudhakarji interrupted and asked for the line item and Ashokji replied, it can be provided when Madanji is back • Srinivasji enquired about constitutional requirement for auditing financial report . Bidhanji expressed he has reviewed constitution 5 times and couldn't find that requirement anywhere. He has presented the copy of the constitution to all members to look at it. Ashokji said, “this issue have been extensively discussed and has been reviewed. Several detailed e-mail of the same has been sent on Oct 12th 2012 to all the devotees. As a result we are saving \$6K a year and money is a big issue for BTL. According professional accountant there is no law requiring auditing temple. Even though present board is doing an excellent job, Srinivasji felt it may be necessary for future. • Ashokji replied that it was decided in the last GBM that 2 independent auditors who are not the board members will do the financial audit. 2013 audit has been completed and available for review. • Srinivasji accepted Ashokji's explanation • Sanjivji asked, “ the proposed budget we are looking at \$240K and the expenses were \$165K, so what is not included ? “. Ashokji replied “ what is not included is our emergency funds. You know our building is getting 20 yr old and the roof has to be replaced. Right now we have big problem in the basement with flooding issue. We have to change the sump. The budget has been the same for last 10 years. Rameshji added, “ we will make sure \$85K is always in the bank and we paid 	

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	<p>more towards the mortgage”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Srinivasji, showed a copy of the constitution where there was a need for a professional auditor report. Ashokji commented, “if community wants and provides the required amount we can get it done”. Bidhanji showed the copy of the independent non- board member audited report. He added bank needed financial report earlier in 2011 because mortgage was made for interest only. • Sudhakarji, said he is not questioning the integrity, as a member they have a right to ask if something is missing and opined the we have to get back to proper procedures as dictated in constitution. His demands are based on 1994 constitution which is signed by Manohar Naga. This procedure was followed until Smriti Shah and she also presented with the report. Meanwhile Subhashji proposed for outside audit requirement to be changed or referral to constitution committee for review. Ashokji felt this issue has been discussed in detail again and again and has been proposed earlier. It would be nice for members to pay attention to the e-mails to give their input in time. • Ashokji and Subhashji, both commented external auditor always bases report on the internal audit report. So, it is a waste of that extra money. Ashokji commented, “ why the need for external audit report earlier was due to interest only mortgage, but when Dr Ghera and Ashokji negotiated they removed the clause. • Ashokji thanked all the valuable comments. He forwarded towards motion the budget of 2014 for \$240K. Motion was accepted. The detailed report of the budget will be provided for the requesting members. 	
Gossainji's proposal for board member nomination and election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He thanked nomination committee members - Mrs Deshpande, Satish Udupa, Dr C.R. Reddy and Dhiraj Shah. • Gossainji commented nomination committee's job was made easy. There was only requirement for 4 people. 2 are already serving on the 	

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	<p>board who were eligible for re-election. They volunteered for re-election. They are Mathi and Meenaji. We have 2 valuable members of the community one is Manasi Upadhyay and another is Dr Sanjay Gupta. There was no elections needed. Proposal accepted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashokji asked new board members to introduce themselves and say few words. • Sanjayji expressed his support and felt honored to serve this great religious institution. He said, “ I am ready to serve with 3 Ts”. He expressed his ideas on fund raising. • Manasiji said, “ I am a long time resident of Okemos area when I was new in town and I was introduced to temple and the community. I strongly believe that this temple brings the community together and we are fortunate to have this here. I am proud of this temple. I have been doing the walkathon for 4 years through the generous support from the community and been able to raise \$ 50K. I also actively participate in Ganesha festival hosted by Marathi community. 	
Open Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanjivji, said there are 2 versions of constitution floating and asked for which version is current. Bidhanji said, he has the current version, but Vedji would answer the question better. Vedji replied, “there is a constitution which is ready to be rolled out. We have revised and re-revised and revised again. Final version was supposed to be presented at the general body. We got little bit late and couldn't send the e-mails in time as 30 days time required before the GBM. Dr. Naresh Pandey was the chairman as you all know he left town and Ved Aggarwal took over. We have a final copy. We have to follow the old constitution to allow time and we can figure it out at the special GBM or at the next GBM. In the mean time we can provide the latest version of the by-law as it exists”. Sanjivji asked for both versions and was agreed. Shivji said, both the copies have been added to the web-site. Board has set-up a comment box for receiving comments from the members. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashokji thanked Shivji's tireless work. • Shivji commented that the temple website has been reformatted to fit the needs of different devices (computers, tablets, smart phones, etc). If anybody has trouble receiving e-mails, they can go to temple website and request for temple e-mail. No content has been removed from the previous data. • Sudhakarji again, reiterated the need for external audit as sent by few earlier board of trustees. He shared the reason for installation of external audit report in the first place when the financial transparency was questioned. He felt the lesson learned from the earlier board needs to be heard. He commented as much as possible to keep the constitution same and if any additional changes to be inserted in by laws. He felt assured by Dr Ghera's words of not letting temple go bankrupt. Somebody commented to him about not adding anymore constructional requirements and expansion which will increase the burden on the community. All American temple group has once a year meeting on ideas of attracting youth to the temple. He suggested current board to participate in it. Ashokji requested him to take a lead on it. • Saralaji expressed that the future of youth involvement in temple looks bright and under the leadership of Ashokji and with parental support for the first time in the history of the board the Subba Raoji camp was conducted and Board has attempted to engage youth in temple activities. They have been involved in walkathon, balvihhar group, chinmaya mission, and there is future plan for lecture series by Dr Raju. She welcomed all suggestions from the members. 	
Adjournment	Ashokji thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting	