Bharatiya Temple of Lansing: Annual General Body Meeting

December 6, 2015
Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: Temple

Reported by : Manasi Upadhye

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Mr. Ashok Gupta</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Mrs. Meena Sharma</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Mrs. Vani Avula</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Mrs. Manasi Upadhye</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Mrs. Kiran Gupta</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Mr. Rajat Shah</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Mr. Devesh Poddar</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Mr. Subhash Gupta</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Mr. Mathi Ramachandran</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Mr. Sanjay Gupta</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Mr. Ketan Patel</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Mr. Ramesh Devaram</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Mr. Manoj Mohan</td>
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Additional Attendees
Around 30 temple members attended the meeting.

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<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<td>Prayer by Shastriji &amp; Panditji</td>
<td>Started the meeting with a prayer by Shastriji &amp; Panditji.</td>
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<td>Report by the Board Chairperson</td>
<td>Ashokji talked about the temple goals – keeping the temple clean, providing a peaceful place for worship to the community and making the temple financially viable.</td>
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<td>He gave information about various projects completed during the year 2015 – Basement leak, Gopuram leak, Shastriji’s house renovation, Seeta Ram Kutir to name a few.</td>
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<td>He thanked the community for great support and participation.</td>
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<td>He informed that the temple debt has been reduced by 40% over the last 4 years. The current debt is around $275,000/-</td>
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<td>He also communicated that the board highly appreciate good ideas from the community and encouraged the community members to serve on the board.</td>
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<td>Treasurer Report for 2015</td>
<td>Subhashji informed that Mr. Malvia has reviewed the Profit and Loss statement</td>
<td>Proposed 2015 budget was approved by the attendees.</td>
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and Balance Sheet for 2014.
He projected the reports and walked through them.

He also gave an update for the 2015 profit and loss statement as of 11/30/15. He explained that there will be changes to the 2015 statement as the transactions get posted till the end of the year.

The annual budget for 2016 was proposed by him and approved by the attendees.

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<tr>
<th>Temple board member election</th>
<th>Three of the members will be leaving the board this year – Dr. Ashok Gupta, Mr. Mathi Ramchandran, and Mrs. Vani Avula.</th>
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<td>There were 3 nominees – Mr. Mathi Ramachandran, Mr. Rajat Shah and Mr. Ramesh Devaram.</td>
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<td>All the three nominees got elected.</td>
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<td>Three existing board members will be leaving the board early next year due to personal reasons – Mr. Subhash Gupta, Mr. Sanjay Gupta and Mrs. Manasi Upadhye.</td>
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<td>Three new members will replace them in January. The new trustees will be – Mrs. Kiran Gupta, Mr. Devesh Poddar, &amp; Mr. Manoj Mohan.</td>
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<td>All the existing board members who are leaving the board need to attend the January 2016 meeting and submit their resignation.</td>
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<td>These board members can also return the temple keys and documents if they have any to the board.</td>
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<th>Questions from the attendees</th>
<th>Ms. Saroj Kapurji asked a question about putting donor’s name on the plaque board, is it necessary to spend money on that. Ashokji responded to the concern explaining that it doesn’t cost much and serves as a token of appreciation to the community members who donate and helps keeping the temple financially viable. Saroiji thanked the board for good committed work.</th>
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<td>Jaglanji requested temple board to commit $500- donation per annum to Food bank. Other attendees explained</td>
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| **that it’s the temple community that donates to the Food Bank so there is no need for donating money from the temple funds.**  
Jaglanji requested the board members to attend Havan, New Year Prayer and food bank activities. Board members will try their best. Board appreciated Jaglanji’s great work. | **The constitution committee will take action on getting the necessary changes done to the constitution by following the established procedure.** |
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<td><strong>Mr Subhash Sharmaji asked a question about external audit – should there be an external audit of temple finances? Ashokji explained that a good research has been done in figuring out if it is necessary to have an external audit which costs around 5000 dollars plus. An external audit is not a legal requirement for religious non-profit organizations. Temple Board follows established procedures and has multiple checks in place to avoid any fraud. A member from the community with accounting knowledge volunteers to perform review of the accounts. All the attendees agreed to the approach. The current constitution wording needs to be amended to change from audit to review.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mr Sanjeev Dagli asked a question about having a documentation of established procedures which can be useful for the new board members. Manasi responded that such document is already in place and is available on the temple website. This document will be kept up to date as new procedures, guidelines are developed.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mr. Ashim Aggarwal requested to try making value additions to the Sunday Puja format.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Depending on the availability of knowledgeable volunteers, board will try their best to do the same.</strong></td>
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