



BHARATIYA TEMPLE OF LANSING, INC.

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Tax Exempt ID: 38-2399465

DATE - 12/07/08	Temple Main Hall
ATTENDEES	Temple General Membership

2008 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Notes

- The 2008 Annual General Meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. with the Board members and general membership present.
- Mr. Sudhakar Kulkarni led the attendees in prayer.
- Rajiv Das, Chair conducted the meeting and passed copies of the Agenda, proposed 2009 Budget, annual report, and available limited copies of the audited financial statements. A sign-up sheet of attendees was passed out with members indicated their presence with a signature.
- In his opening remarks Rajiv thanked the construction committee and the membership for the efforts on the Completion project. The final Occupancy Permit has been provided by the Township. Rajiv invited the community members to rent the basement and full kitchen for various life events. He provided highlights from the written annual report (available on the Temple website). Highlights included:
 - 3 donors (Anu & Sanjeev Deshpande, Shashi & Milind Karve, Kalyani & Ashim Aggarwal) have donated \$25,000 each towards 3 classrooms.
 - 3 new life members for the year. Goal is 20 life members next year
 - Recognized volunteers (Shashi Karve, Raman Anantaraman, Madan and Diane Syal, and Samip Patel). Rajiv appreciated their efforts and indicated that the Temple cannot run without dedicated volunteers and asked all to do so.
 - An advisory committee of past Chairs has been formed to formulate the long-term vision for the Temple.
 - Thanked out going Board members (Pardeep Kumar, Pratin Trivedi, and B.D Agarwal)
- Smruti Shah presented the proposed Budget for 2009 for discussion and adoption. Smruti answered questions from members and clarified the assumptions upon which the budget was built. Most questions and clarifications were surrounding the debt reduction and new Temple loan. Smruti clarified that the Budget reflected operational activities that included mortgage payments. Any debt reduction fund raising efforts will directly go towards reducing Temple debt and not used for operations. Mr. Gian Taneja proposed adoption; Mr. Ram Nagappan seconded and the membership approved adoption of the Budget.
- Mr. Prakash Kapoor, as Chair of the Nominations and elections committee led the nominations process. He introduced the committee members, Mr. Gian Taneja and Mr. Ram Nagappan. Mr. Taneja provided a very detailed account of the process they underwent and the background of the proposed candidates. He presented the candidates for approval. The 3 candidates are Mr. Sudhakar Kulkarni, Mrs. Smruti Shah, and Mrs. Vandana Sheth, and one vacancy.
- Mr. Kapoor addressed many questions from the membership. The membership in general was concerned with the lack of individuals willing to volunteer for Board positions. Also, in ensuring that the 2 candidates who could not participate be considered for Board appointment. They also asked the nominations committee about their efforts in recruiting candidates and clarified that the role was to solicit, recruit, and independently manage the process. Mr. Kapoor indicated that they had done just that. The membership was also concerned about the 2 individuals who volunteered but could not be considered due to established rules. Discussion occurred on how best to recruit and retain Board members. Membership asked why the names of the nominees have not been released prior to the AGM. Rajiv replied that the Board had just found out the nominees a week before. Mr. Kapoor indicated that the committee role was to present to Board and not communicate to community. Other Board members indicated that there was no intent to not share the names, it's just that the Board came to know about a week or so before the AGM and had been verbally sharing the info. Rajiv indicated that effort will be made next year to provide the slate beforehand so membership is aware prior to coming to the meeting. The Board has started communicating the audited financial statements as soon as finalized to provide membership more time to review prior to the meeting. One member indicated that due to the significant amount of time taken for the nomination and election process at the meeting, it would help to have the candidate names so the actual process at the AGM is timely and more focused.
- The 3 candidates in turn provided their background and vision for the Temple. Pursuant to the candidate vision statements, Mr. Taneja asked for approval of the slate of candidates. The candidates were unanimously approved by the membership.

- ❑ Rajiv thanked the Nominations committee. Mr. Kapoor asked Rajiv if he could address the community. Rajiv agreed. Mr. Kapoor addressed the community for a while with a general theme of reducing negativity and thanking the attendees for their support.
- ❑ Rajiv provided an overview of the Debt reduction plan. The goal is to be debt-free in 6 years. The general approach of the plan is to focus on small but manageable fund raising targets (10 pledges of \$2,000, 20 of \$1,000 etc.). Suggestion from the floor was to also actively increase membership. Bidhan Reddy thanked Rajiv Das for his contribution as a chairperson during the construction period.
- ❑ Rajiv opened up the meeting for the Open Forum Agenda item. Mr. Jaglan brought up the issue of memorial services at the Temple. He had contacted various Temples in many places and they do allow memorial services for devotees before 13th day.
- ❑ Dr. Gossain brought up that ironically, even at the first Sunday Puja on the day of AGM there was silence observed for the victims of the Mumbai attacks. Rajiv responded that it is customary to offer prayers for solidarity but it does not constitute memorial service.
- ❑ Dr. Kapur stated that as the Temple is supported by the community, it needs to look at and address community issues. She wondered why prayers could not happen on the 4th day after departed. What specifically were the reasons.
- ❑ Rajiv Das said that the issue had come up in the Board and was debated in an animated way. Board has clearly communicated the decision from 1997 board meeting, decision from August 2008 and not to offend a large section of community. Dr. Gossain urged the membership that policy was created by former Board and as reasonable adults we certainly should be able to come to a compromise. Rajiv Das said the issue will be again addressed when the new Board convenes and dialog is the best way.
- ❑ Dr. Kapur asked Rajiv for a commitment to put the issue on the Agenda of the initial meetings of the year. Also, when the item is on the agenda to let people know. Dr. Gossain is the main contact and will be informed when the item is on the agenda.
- ❑ Dr. Kapur also urged the Board to consider a more efficient way of conducting the General Body meeting. With the excessive time taken for elections and nominations committee the time for discussion of real issues is not available and rushed through. Considerations such as pre announcement of candidates and possibly electronic voting would help. Rajiv indicated that the elections and budget approval are necessary administrative items which need general body approval and have to take priority at the AGM.
- ❑ AGM was adjourned around 3:15 p.m.

Appendix – A

Approved 2009 Budget

Bharatiya Temple of Lansing, Inc.		
Operating Budget (Annual General Body Meeting 12/7/2008)		
	Budget 2008	Actual 11/30/2008
Operating Revenue		
Contributions and bequests	\$ 68,300.00	\$ 71,353.31
Priest services	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 26,637.00
Membership dues, special events, etc.	\$ 47,100.00	\$ 37,708.53
Debt reduction program		\$ 50,000
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 157,400.00	\$ 135,698.84
Operating Expenses		
Priest Salaries and benefits	\$ 67,000.00	\$ 67,588.53
Insurance	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 11,325.88
Licenses and permits	\$ -	\$ 70.29
Equipment rental	\$ -	\$ 438.43
Special events	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 11,075.51
Flowers and fruits	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,922.87
Supplies	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,838.18
Repair and maintenance	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 19,450.91
Utilities	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 8,228.07
Telephone	\$ 750.00	\$ 641.54
Audit fees	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 5,400.00
Printing	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 384.26
Postage and delivery	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 765.21
Other	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,940.72
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 147,250.00	\$ 136,070.40
Interest expense	\$ 4,730.00	\$ 4,459.69
Loan principal	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 4,441.47
Debt reduction		\$ 18,000
Total Cash Used/Needs	\$ 157,330.00	\$ 144,971.56
Bharatiya Temple of Lansing, Inc.		
Capital Improvements Financial Details (Annual General Body Meeting 12/7/08)		
Collection		
Capital Improvement Contributions		\$ 335,635
Loan		600,000
Total		\$ 935,635
Expenses		
Consulting design and permit		43,267
Carpet		7,314
Electrical and PA system		14,672
Elevator		24,000
Fire protection		86,518
Flooring		33,741
General construction		707,412
Painting and staining		16,117
Parking lot upgrade		2,595
		\$ 935,635
Outstanding payments		
General construction		\$ 29,000
Landscaping		17,000
Fire protection		14,000
		\$ 60,000