

Minutes AGM 2019

Sunday August 14, 2019

1. Chairperson Mr. Ashok Khanna opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, introduced the board members and Dr. R. P. Gupta was assigned as officiating the AGM.
2. Before starting the meeting Dr. Sastry priest did the prayer in Sanskrit then explained in English with very positive comments as pointing out the importance of unity within the community to maintain peace and harmony.
3. Time allotted for questions is 1 -2 minutes/person
4. On screen Vishal projected minutes from last AGM for approval. It was mentioned that minutes are long, so they were already emailed to members. Motion was moved by Ashok and seconded by Vishal to accept the minutes and motion passed unanimously.
5. Ashok pointed out that amendments in constitution are completed by Dr. R. P. Gupta ahead of time. He highlighted certain points of interest from minutes: (a) The request from priests Dr. Sastry and late Mr. Rai to open the temple every day, but so far it was not possible as those are the working days. we will try to open every other day Tuesday and Thursday evening mandir though mandir is open first Saturday of month for Shri Venkateshwar pooja, second Saturday for Havan, third Saturday for Mata ki Chowki (instead of Friday so more people can attend). More devotees are attending services on Sunday or Saturdays.
6. Ashok gave highlights of the year and thanked: (a) all the audiences for their presence (b) priests for their commitment, sermons, and services to the community (c) more devotees are coming to temple, (d) youth group for presenting bhajans, mantras skits on every Sunday and at all the major festivals. They are the future of our community. Ashok thanked Rachna, Anita, Satya Sai for job well done. (d) On every Sunday, recitation of Shri Geeta in Sanskrit and Hindi with brief explanation takes place instead of Ramayana. (e) on Mother's and Father's Day decided to honour senior members of mandir (85 yrs.+) with small token of appreciation. (f) A new deity Kartika has been installed on one of the Saturday with full zest participation of all the priests in the pooja. Ashok thanked Suseelaji for the work well done. (g) Thanked Vishal for installation of three new heat pumps to maintain normal temperature on all floors, and also the maintenance of the appliances and building which has taken place. (h) Thanked Usha and Lila for their commitment in the kitchen and maintaining good financial records, thanked all the volunteers & devotees.

7. Ashok requested people not to bring unwanted things and new deities from home to the mandir. There is no space for those unwanted articles. Check with executive and priests before deciding to bring any article or deities.
8. Usha Goel (kitchen vice chair) mentioned as the community growing, sponsors for prasad are also growing. There are not enough Sundays so at times two devotees sponsor prasad on same Sunday. If someone does not want to share with others then they are advised to choose any other day but book in advance. If it's done other than Sunday then groceries, cooking, cleaning etc. is their own responsibility. She consults sponsoring families regarding choice of menu along within limits with normal items. She thanked Ashok, Lila, Vishal, Annand, for shopping besides that thanked Raj Verma for her advice and Rani and many more volunteers (by name) in helping in kitchen on every Sunday, special thanks to Rita Bali for looking after the kitchen in her absence.
9. Rachna Malkani (youth group co-ordinator) mentioned children (5 -11 yrs.) are doing very well in singing bhajans, learning dance and Hindi. She mentioned that trying to start increase participation of youth 12 – 18 years old. The year was very successful children participated in bhajans, dances, skits at major functions, also invited students from dance academy. 32 children joined the summer camp, youth 13 yrs. plus helped during camp activities. They had group activities, learned bhajans and mantras, thanks to Dr. Sridhar Chelamkruri for teaching mantras. She thanked Anita Swamy for teaching bhajans, also thanked Satya Sai, Asha Parkash and all the parents and other volunteers for their guidance and support. Sastry ji suggested teach bhajans but not mantras, as mantras to be spoken with proper pronunciation.
10. Suseela Sastry (Religion vice - chair) thanked everyone for giving her chance to serve. (a) mentioned that she tried to organize things slightly differently on mothers & fathers' days as chanting of namavali by priests only and everyone follow quietly. (b) Silver & brass items are used in temple, so got Aarthi and other utensils of brass from India to Toronto to Halifax. (c) thanked all the volunteers who helped her and apologised for not able to give chance for singing bhajan to very many people.
11. Lila Joshi (financial secretary) thanked for giving her chance to work in this capacity. She thanked all volunteers Kamal Gulati, Lata Kale, Geeta Batra to be in her committee. Financial report is on annual basis i.e. January to December. In December 2017 there were \$60,000.00 dollars in GIC. More dollars are added to GIC. Special fund raising was done \$19,000 + 3,000 for Kerala (India) disaster + for young man who got hurt. Building is worth more than \$ 1,500,000.00 but shown only depreciation value of 1.3 million dollars as in balance sheet. Three heat pumps which are considered as an asset not as an expense, but it will come as amortization in years to come. Dr. Gupta moved the motion to accept the financial report and Dr Sinha second the motion and motion approved unanimously.

12. Dr. Sinha moved to appoint Cambridge co. as an auditor for next year, seconded by Lila Joshi and motion passed unanimously.
13. Vishal Bhardwaj (vice chair administration) (a) thanked Dr. RP Gupta for certain amendments in constitution, Usha Goel for managing prasad for about over 200 people almost every Sunday. Dr. Sastry for promoting Hinduism outside the temple. Rachna and youth group in participation in Language fair organized by HRM by promoting Hindi, and Sanskrit as mother languages. (b) He tried to try to invite dignitaries, politicians on special festivals. (c) Wi-fi is added upstairs only to be use for special purposes, such as online services, some events on face book. Planning to install the audio + screen which can projects the verses of Ramayana, Geeta are recited. (d) pointed out the need of fundraising effort towards expansion of mandir with growing community. (e) requested people be mindful with parking, safety issues as not to park in front of fire hydrant, not to block neighbours' driveways.
14. Raj Verma suggested to invite dignitaries from all parties not just from one party. Raj Verma asked that fund raising committee should remain independent of present board until new amendments in constitution are registered with Stock and Joint commission, and till she completes her project. Vishal Clarified we invite all parties such NDP leader, who has been multiple times in our temple. We invite current MP or Minister who happen to be from one party. Vishal reminded that we have different councillors time to time in temple events as well.
15. Raj Verma (Fund raising committee chair) back bone for mandir. (a) Mandir Expansion project December 2012. \$ 27,000.00 dollars fund raised, grant from HRM came \$ 20,000.00. Total funds raised \$ 220,000.00 and loan of 350,000.00 was taken from the bank. By 2016 paid over & 260,000 towards loan. Able to raise \$ 25,000 within three months to be able to pay more. (b) Donor's list is ready, and Donor's wall will have names of life members, special donors, and history of the temple. She thanked Bala Durvasula, Lila Joshi, Lata Kale, Ashok Khanna, Dr. R.P, Gupta for their help. (c) Dr. Dhiman Chowdhury suggested to explore if we can get some money from HRM further expansion of the mandir. We need more funds to run the mandir needs at least 4 – 5 thousand dollars per month. (d) she thanked people who sponsored monthly food service for Hope cottage and also thanked volunteers David, Annand, Dalpat, Jaya, Veena for their support. People at Hope cottage are very appreciative.
16. Dr. RP Gupta (constitution committee chair) mentioned that he met with Raj Verma, Vishal Bhardwaj, Chandra Rao Kale for suggestions towards the amendment of the constitution. He proposed: (a) there should be board of trustees consisting of 3 members in good standing for the term of 3 years (b) 9 elected members should make the board instead of 7 as at present, it used to be to be 9 before last amendment 2006.

(c) each committee should have two board members plus other people (d) elections should take place every alternate year in the month of May (e) financial report should be from January – December 31. (f) the panel of priests should have female member as well. (g) Other are minor changes. Dr. Gupta moved to accept the report of constitution committee, Dr. Sinha seconded. Discussion taken place: it was mentioned that it will be difficult to find 9 members for assigned positions that is why in 2006 number was reduced to 7 from 9. Dr. Gupta mentioned that is the job of nominating committee to find appropriate people. Dr. Gupta moved to accept the revised constitution from tomorrow if board wishes. Accepted by majority. The objection raised by Raj Verma that is too soon to complete the existing projects which are in progress and the new amendments cannot be implemented until registered with Joint and Stock commission. Raj also requested to maintain the fund-raising committee as is till the completion of the projects. Her request was accepted that fund raising committee stays as it is.

17. No changes in fees for memberships
18. Other items: Om Sharma appreciated the work of people doing their job but certain improvements are needed (a) Hanuman Chaalisa and more bhajans should be added during services, (b) equal genders in distribution of bhajans. (c) sponsoring family should have priority for giving names of people to sing bhajans. Vishal said people should be here earlier to get the name for singing otherwise it's not fair with people whose names are already given to priest. Saroj suggested those people didn't get chance one Sunday should be given priority following week.
19. Dr. Rajendra Parkash made suggestion that since donor list is not here so at present no changes are necessary. Dr. R. P. Gupta said it's not fair to make changes in donors list now after the donations had been made earlier. Prem Deonarain suggested that it would be nice for the visitors and those who do not understand the recitation of Ramayana or Geeta in Hindi only can be explained as a synopsis in English. Vishal said that priests try to do that. Dr. Sinha proposed that members should have privilege in booking the prasad. Dr. Sinha said that community is increasing so expansion of mandir is needed VAS lost opportunity of buying next door property in reasonable price.
20. Dr. Gupta gave vote of thanks to board members and all volunteers for excellent work.
21. Ashok assured that the board will try to implement the suggestions which are very well taken.
22. Meeting adjourned tea and snacks will be served downstairs.