



The Hindu Temple of Greater Springfield (HTGS)

1001 West Walnut Street, Chatham, IL 62629
www.SpringfieldTemple.org Ph: 217-697-8174
manager@SpringfieldTemple.org
Tax-Exempt 501(C)(3)Organization, Fed Tax ID:20-8889846

Dr. Kartik Mani

Dr. Krishna Rao

Chairman, Governing Board of Trustees

President, Executive Committee

Annual General Body Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2015

The Governing Board of Trustees held a General Body Meeting of HTGS members on Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 3:00 PM

Venue: Temple
Date: December 19, 2015, Saturday
Time: 3 PM to 5 PM

Minutes prepared by Mrs. Aneeta Shailesh, Secretary, HTGS Executive Committee

Start time: 3:13 PM

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and commencement -- by Board Secretary Dr. Raj Sreedhar**

Dr. Sreedhar welcomed the General Body and updated that there will be a change in the order of business for that day. He said that item # 6, Update on the Current Board Members and voting on the new Board Members will be addressed at first.

He updated that Dr. Subhash Choudhri, Mr. Ravi Puvarala & Mr. Vinod Patel will be retiring from the Board and the new members who have agreed to serve the Board are, Mr. Gopal Reddy, Dr. Sanjay Nagendra, Mr. Atul Agarwal, Mr. Jagdish Raut & Mr. Kiran Desai.

Dr. Sreedhar also updated that, the Board has total 13 positions and they have only 9 positions filled so far. They are making all the efforts to recruit more members.

General Body members brought up few names and one was Mr. Harish Bhat who could be interested in serving the Board. Dr. Sreedhar assured that he will contact him and find out about his interest in doing so.

Dr. Mani assured that they will keep the recruitment open until end of January to accommodate more members. He also assured that Board will be sending the General Body Meeting Notices two months in advance in future. He encouraged members to contribute and help the Temple in any capacity.

The General Body unanimously approved all the five new Board members.

2. **Updates from the Executive Committee -- by President Dr. Krishna Rao**

Dr. Krishna Rao updated the General Body Members about

- Priest: The temple now has new priest Shri Keshava Shastry. His performance is evaluated and it's very positive.
- Maintenance of Temple Premises: We have all the light bulbs replaced. The doorbell is installed. The security system is updated, wireless connection is working, Printers and Computers in the Main office are all working. Mr. Ankur Nagrecha is currently working on remote access.
- Website is regularly updated and Mr. Raghuraman is working on online donation form.
- There are few items that needs work to be done like front sign, flag posts and south side door that needs weather proofing, slab work and canopy to protect from rain. The effort is ongoing on finding right handyman to fix.

Mr. Alkesh Trividi pointed out that both the back windows are leaking. Mrs. Shailesh updated that it's the leak in the roof believed to be causing the rain water to get into the building.

Mr. Trivedi also pointed out that, after hosting Annadatha, the devotees are not cleaning the kitchen well, they don't dispose the garbage and also many times they don't lock the north side door. He wanted to make sure that whoever leaves the Temple premises last, should check and make sure that all the doors are locked. He also informed that the gas was leaking and left turned on in the kitchen causing safety hazard.

Dr. Krishna Rao assured that he will meet with Annadatha Committee and bring this issue for discussion.

He thanked Mrs. Lakshmi Bramamdam and Mrs. Kalpana Patel for serving Annadatha and Prasadam Committee. They will be retiring this year and Dr. Rao is working on filling these two vacancies.

Dr. Rao also updated that Mr. Khushal Patel is handling the operational portfolios. He is always in Temple when repairs and other routine maintenance work is scheduled in the Temple premises.

Mrs. Lakshmi B requested that priest should be made available on Saturdays to finish Nitya Puja in the temple before he leaves for outside pujas. She said, many times Priest returns in the afternoon and usually tired from performing 3 hour puja's outside.

Mr. Andy Aiyer agreed that the Priest should finish Nitya puja before he leaves for outside puja's. Mrs. Shailesh, Lakshmi B and few others agreed that Priest should be available between 9 & 11 AM on Saturdays and could be scheduled for outside puja's afterward. Dr. Rao will be updating the Puja Committee on this.

3. Updates of the New Temple Plan – by Strategic Planning Committee

Dr. Raj Govindhaya, Chair of Strategic Planning Committee updated that he is working on meeting with his committee on January 9th. He is waiting on Dr. Mani's direction on New Temple Project.

He was updated by Dr. Krishna Rao, that his team has Mr. Alkesh Trivedi, Mr. Vinod Patel and Mrs. Lakshmi B.

4. Update on Current Temple Finances – by EC Chair

Dr. Rao updated on Temple Current finances. He said that the temple has no debt at present. He updated the General Body with the account balances and stated that Temple has new donations of about \$ 65000.

Mr. Andy Aiyer asked about the Collection from Hundi. Mrs. Shailesh updated that it was \$7000 as updated by the treasurer.

Dr. Raj Govindhaya, Mr. Atul Agarwal, Mr. Gopal Reddy & Mr. Andy Aiyer asked Dr. Krishna Rao about the Quarterly financial statements, Donors Lists, Statements on Income & expenses as well as Pledges. Dr. Rao said it will be updated and available early January. Everyone agreed that the financial position should be transparent to members.

5. Fundraising Plans -- by Fundraising Committee

Mr. Gopal Reddy addressed the General Body members and asked them to donate generously. He wants to get the direction from the Board on New Temple Project so he can go and fundraise.

Dr. Mani updated that he is looking at an estimate of 1.5 to 2 million dollars towards building new Temple.

Mr. Trivedi pointed out that we need about 75% of the money upfront before we do groundbreaking based on the information provided by Martin Engineering and Architect Mr. Salim Rangawala. Dr. Mani informed that we should raise at least 60% money before we approach the bank for the loan.

Several members have agreed to donate 100,000 over next 10 years. Dr. Sreedhar and Mrs. Tulsi Reddy handed over their first contribution of \$10,000 towards new Temple construction.

6. Updates on the current Board Members and voting on the new Board Members.

It was conducted first.

7. General Questions/Answers from the General Body Members – 5 minutes per person

Mr. Andy Aiyer asked that each member should talk about why we need a temple.

Dr. Mani asked everyone to create a forum on FaceBook and discuss this to motivate the community to participate. Mr. Aiyer said he prefers not to publicly discuss his religious preferences so he would like members to discuss in small gatherings in Temple.

Mrs. Lakshmi B asked if previous General Body Meeting Minutes be made available. Dr. Shreedhar assured that it will be uploaded on the Temple's Website for all the members to read.

8. Closing Remarks –by Chairman Dr. Kartik Mani

Dr. Mani in closing remark encouraged everyone to participate and help the temple He talked about his effort towards unifying the Indian community in Springfield so that he could pull more support for building new temple. Mr. Kiran Desai, Mr. Gopal Reddy, Mrs. Tulsi Reddy and many other members agreed that we should ask the community to volunteer more, help and support the Temple.

9. Adjournment

Dr. Sreedhar adjourned the meeting at 4:33 PM

Members Present:

1. **Gopal Reddy**
2. **Tulasi Reddy**
3. **Raj Sreedhar**
4. **Kartik Mani**
5. **Alpana Chandra**
6. **Krishna Rao**
7. **Kiran Desai**
8. **Atul Agarwal**
9. **Jagdish Raut**
10. **Amarnadh Brahmamdam**
11. **Lakshmi Brahmamdam**
12. **Alkesh Trivedi**
13. **Kushal Patel**
14. **Raj Govindiah**
15. **Shailesh Nandish**
16. **Aneeta Shailesh**
17. **Andy Aiyer**
18. **Ramesh S**