

The Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre of the ACT (Inc.)

Special General Meeting

25th March 2013 at 2:30 PM

81 Ratcliffe Crescent, Florey, ACT

Meeting Minutes

- Welcome note by HTCC President, Subhash Dang.
- House Keeping Procedures
- Condolences- Silence for 2 minutes
- Apologies: Prakash Mehta, Akhilesh Arora (not well), Agnes Kumar (personal Reasons)
- Presentation of the Engagement Proposal/Framework for the Priest Contract
- Sub Committee drafting - Yogesh Parikh, Ashok Garg, 2 resolutions at the AGM: Review & proposal
- The president Subhash ji explained the importance of sub-committee and asked Yogesh ji to explain the process further.
- **Yogesh Parikh:**
 1. Explained the reasons he took this job.
 2. Information & Comments received were used.
 - Many people, helped during the draft process. Mentioning a few Arvind Kaliaji, Rakesh Jain ji. Yogeshji started this in Jan'2013; collecting information was challenging. Past presidents helped in information gathering like Mr. Mehta & Mr. Muneshwar, but not all the information they provided was relevant. All the information provided was put on paper but without a proper process and consultation with the community.
- **Ashok Garg explained the Review Process**
 - **Staged process:** Recruitment, PR, Duty statement, Temple management.
 - The previous HTCC Priest Recruitments had the following issues
 1. no advertisements,
 2. no process,

3. no reasons for Selection & Rejection,
4. no duty statement.
5. no process for Dakshina/Service charges.

- **The president took the stage & asked if they were any questions:**

No questions

- **Mr. Parikh: explained the Business Case**

- Need - 6000 Indian Community in Canberra. This included Hindus from all over the world, seniors, Young migrants, etc. Talked about the growth in number
- Financial Analysis
- Recommendation based on logic & justification.
- Difference between Panditji/Pujari, Researched to find the appropriate word for Spiritual leader & duties.

- **Mr. Mohan Singh:** suggested that it should be Religious Worker not Pujari according to visa.

- **Mr. Parikh:** Did not want to use the word 'worker' as it may seem inappropriate. He consulted the Supreme Court document to find/use the appropriate word.

- Dakshina part explained. Should be shared between the mandir & the priest. This is not a current practice resulting in a big financial loss to the temple.

- **Mr. Mohan Singh:** suggested that the Present Committee, is not at fault and committee did not have any power to sort this out- Yogeshji agreed to this. Mr. Parikh, got the Dakshina process cleared by consulting many temples processes on the website.

- **Mr. Gossain:** suggested that they had seen in temples overseas that they have temple priest who is the main priest & they also have junior priests (students who are doing PHd's) during busy periods & rush hours to help out. He also mentioned that Dakshina is a complex issue & it encourages temple income.

- **Mr. Ashok Jain:** Contributed his views about dakshina & said that people traditionally give dakshina to the priest. Also said that dakshina topic is a complicated & commended Mr. Parikh's views.

- **Mr. Gossain:** suggested that the community needs to be educated about Dakshina

- **Mr. Bhagwati Khannah:** suggested that dakshina should go in the donation box.

- **Mr. Yogesh Parikh:** suggested we employ a 'multi skilled priest'. This temple can't function with one priest. Having two priests is much more beneficial for this temple as it will be an opportunity to generate more income. He also agreed that we cannot compare ourselves with the temples in Sydney.

- **Conclusion:** We can afford to have 2 priests, within \$50,000 income bracket. **Mr. Ashok Garg** concluded by reading about priest employment procedure & suggested the way forward is to be decided by the EC.
- **Mr. Ashok Garg: explained the following processes.**
 1. Recruitment Process
 2. Main Priest Selection
 3. Assistant Priest Selection
 4. Employment Contract
 5. Roles & Responsibilities
- **Way forward:** The president explained about the current Priest contract & transparency in the whole selection process. Option B (two Pujaris) at this stage looks more viable.
- **Mr. Vijay Arora:** Thanked Mr. Ashok Garg & Mr. Yogesh Parikh for their tremendous hard work and suggested that the mandir can have 2 pujaris.
- **Mr. Subhash Dang:** suggested we need the priest to also help in the management of temple. The current Panditji has not been performing the temple management tasks for the past 18 months. Having two Pujaris will be a great help.
- **Mr. Raj Sharma:** raised the issue that if we pay differently to the pujaris it might raise an issue.
- **Mr. Mohan Singh:** Agreed to Mr. Sharma, there must be one year overlap between the two pujaris.

Motion 1:

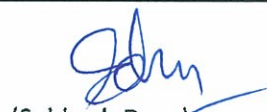
- Proposed by : Mr. Yogesh Parikh
- Seconded by: Mr. Ashok Jain
- 100% accepted the motion

Meeting concluded with chanting of Shanti Path lead by Pandit Rama Sharma.


(Tushar Gupta)

Secretary

8 April 13


(Subhash Dang)

President

8 April 13