



# BHARATIYA TEMPLE OF LANSING, INC.

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DATE – 05/18/08  
12:10 PM

Temple Main Hall

## Community Town Hall Meeting Notes

- The Town Hall meeting was scheduled as part of the Donor Appreciation Day. Pratin Trivedi facilitated the meeting.
- The meeting started with a short discourse by Dr. Raju who blessed all the Donors for their financial contributions that have made having a Temple in the community possible.
- Rajiv Das provided an overview and updates for the Construction project. Phase I is virtually complete. The Construction committee is waiting for the final permits to initiate the Phase II (interior). Current estimated completion date is July 15 of this year. He reminded the attendees about the July 19<sup>th</sup> Temple anniversary celebrations.
- Rajiv Das announced that 2 community members – Milind Karve and Sanjeev Deshpande, have committed donations of \$25,000 each for 2 classrooms in the basement.
- Pratin asked the attendees if they had any questions, either related to the construction project or any other Temple operational activity. There were no questions. Pratin continued and provided a financial update about the construction project. The original approved budget was \$867,000. There has been a change order of miscellaneous items approved for \$ 40,000, and the denial of the township variance request for fire sprinkler system in the existing building will add upto \$60,000 to the project.
- Ashim & Kalyani Aggarwal made a commitment of additional \$25,000 in donations towards the project.
- Vikram Shah asked questions on when did the township pass the resolution about new fire codes relative to the variance provided to the Church next to the Temple and what was the township Board split on voting. Anup Shah, who is the construction committee member dealing with fire suppression systems provided the explanation that the Church was provided a variance because they have a physical fire rated wall between the old and new sections, whereas our Temple does not have one.
- Anju Tripathi provided a commitment of \$1,000 in additional donations to the Temple.

- Raman Anantaraman asked whether the stage will be a permanent attached structure. Rajiv Das responded that at this time the plans are to make the stage temporary (flexible). Making the stage permanent will be decided later by the Board. Raman A. suggested that was the right decision.
- Radha Mehta committed donation of \$100 towards the project.
- Raman Anantaraman reminded the attendees about the changes to Meijer Community Rewards program. Pratin described the program and urged attendees to sign up if they have not yet done so. Kalyani Aggarwal suggested that a booth be set up at the Temple Anniversary program to have additional individuals sign-up for the program.
- Rajiv Das made an appeal for membership sign-up. Gian Taneja thanked the Board members for their dedicated efforts in seeing the Completion project through. Rajiv Das acknowledged the appreciation and also recognized the construction committee members who were present. Pratin recognized and thanked both our priests without whom our Temple would not be as vibrant as it is.
- Veena Mandrekar urged the Board to consider ElderCare, Women's services, and other social services in conjunction with other organizations of the area. She also appealed the Board for additional support and participation in India Week. Ashim Aggarwal responded and provided information about the Senior group. Also, Rajiv responded that the Board is certainly open to suggestions, however the primary responsibility is to meet the Temple's expenses first prior to committing financial resources towards newer activities. Pratin Trivedi also reiterated that the Board is not specifically opposed to any of those ideas, but were facing both human and financial resource challenges. The Board membership is not at the full 9 member capacity. The Board looks to community members to take the lead in developing proposals and once accepted to execute those proposals.
- Kalyani Aggarwal suggested that the Board consider adding 3 more committees/positions, each spearheading Social, Cultural, and liaison with other organizations.
- The meeting was then concluded and adjourned.