

**Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Trustees
of the Hindu Temple of Ottawa-Carleton
Sunday, May 27, 2018**

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm and started with an invocation.
2. The president confirmed that the requirements of the quorum were met for the meeting to proceed. There were 21 trustees present and 23 proxies were received.
3. The agenda circulated to all the trustees beforehand was accepted.
4. Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting that were circulated to all Board Members beforehand were accepted without any changes.
5. **Activity Reports and Future Plans:** (By the President)

The president gave a Power-Point presentation of the temple activity in details, which reflected the amount of work and responsibility involved at the temple. He went over all the points listed in the AGM minutes of 2017 and updated in the same order.

- 5.1 The original concept of the temple** (ritualistic and spiritual needs of the community): This original concept of fulfilling the ritual and spiritual needs of the community has been fully implemented and maintained from the beginning of the temple. Over time, new festivals are added to the list depending upon the needs of the community.

At the last AGM in 2017, the President went over the history of the temple (as recorded in the minutes). At this meeting, the President briefed the trustees on how the name "Hindu Temple" (instead of naming by certain Hindu Deity) was selected; how the design of the temple and selection of deities was done. The President also mentioned that Swami Dayanand Saraswati was consulted in all these matters.

- 5.2 Expanded role of the temple:** The President reported the expanded role of the temple in various ways as given below:

a. Education

- Brahma Vidya: It is conducted every Sunday from 12.15 to 12.45 pm since 1989.

The President once again recognized the great contribution of Dr. Sourirajan in setting up Brahma Vidya activity at the temple in 1989 and his large donation, which is designated for the continuation of this activity.

He thanked Dilip Waghay and others for carrying out this activity and also for putting the entire program on the website. This website is accessed by people from many countries. Occasionally, the temple gets emails from devotees in other countries complimenting this material.

For about a year now, the temple has been using Power-Point presentation of Brahma Vidya on Sunday. Thank you to Rajan Ramanujam who is now a member of the team for Brahma Vidya and makes the presentation on Sunday.

- Temple Visits: Each year various groups—students and teachers from schools, church groups, university students, RCMP, and Scouts—visit the temple. The Late Madhu Sahasrabudhe started this activity about 25 years ago and Sarita Jindal was helping him in this program. Then 15 years ago, a few board members got together and developed a syllabus for teaching Hinduism to the visitors. This has been a very successful program. Every year there are over 1,000 visitors. In the year of 2017, there were 21 visits with 951 visitors. Shiv Jindal and Sivan Parameswaran facilitate these visits. It takes about 100 hours per year to organize and run this program.
- Health Seminars: This activity, which started in February 2012, is held every 2nd Sunday of the month from 2-3 pm. Since then it has taken place every month except for the month of December. So far, we had 70 seminars. These seminars are well attended and much appreciated. Thanks to Ram Acharya for

Hindu Temple of Ottawa-Carleton Inc.
4835 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1X 1G6

setting up email system to send information to almost 2500 devotees and Dilip Waghay for recording each seminar and for the audio-visual set up. It takes about over 100 hours to organize and run this program.

- Bal Mandir: Sunday school for children (BAL Mandir) has started after few years of gap and recently more children and their parents are participating in this activity.
- Yoga and Meditation: This activity has been going on for many years now. Thanks to Girija and Dilip Waghay for starting and carrying out this program every Sunday from 10 -11 am.

b. Participation in the activities of the City of Ottawa: The temple has participated in the following programs

- CRIC - Capital Regional Interfaith Council
- SCAC – Spiritual Care Advisory Committee of the Ottawa Hospitals
It is matter of great pride that Late Madhu Saharsrabudhe founded CRIC and SCAC in the 1990's. Late PA Adcharamoorthy continued with it. The present coordinator is Sivan Parameswaran.
- Doors Open- Late PA Adcharamoorthy initiated this activity. The present coordinator is Murlidhar Rao Avadhanula.
- Shepherds of Good Hope: (Coordinators- Virendra Sahn, Vas Dev Aggarwal, Kanwal Talwar and many others). This activity takes place once a month.
- WCRP- World Conference on Religion for Peace. No active participation.
- Member of the advisory committee – RCMP. - No activity since 2010.
- Blood Bank- Red Cross - No activity since 2010.

c. Funerals needs

Kanwal Talwar and the Late Arjun Aggarwal developed excellent guidelines as to what steps should be taken in case there is a death in the community. These guidelines are available on the temple's website. It is a matter of great pride that a temple in Albany NY and the Queensway Carleton Hospital in Ottawa are using these guidelines. The coordinator of this program is Kanwal Talwar and other members include Vas Dev Aggarwal and Sarita Jindal.

d. Emergency needs: Temple is contacted periodically by phone for other emergencies and guidance.

e. Charitable work

Shepherds of Good Hope: Temple has been sending extra groceries to this charity at least 3-4 times a year.

5.3 Operation of the temple: Day-to-day operation of the temple is a big responsibility, and it includes several activities as outlined below:

- Safety/Security of the priests, visitors and the building is a major concern. Various safety measures recommended by the RCMP have been implemented such as installing video cameras at many locations within the temple.
- The President reported that once the priests called him to report a "hostile" man upon which the President came to the Temple to deal with him.
- Two police cars are in the parking lot on weekdays. There is no cost to the temple for their presence but it has provided significant security to the temple.
- Maintaining the décor and Sanctity of the place
- Maintenance issues such as:
 - Cleanliness
 - Garbage collection/disposal

Hindu Temple of Ottawa-Carleton Inc.
4335 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1X 1G6

Lighting and heating
Kitchen supplies etc.
Snow cleaning
Landscaping
Many more

- Booking Poojas
 - Participating in the celebration of all the festivals
 - Attending emergency situations such as water leakage, priest's sickness etc.
 - Finances: Weekly collection of the funds, depositing in the bank, bookkeeping and also acknowledging donations to the devotees. This finance-related task takes about 5-6 hours per week.
 - Preparing annual newsletter
 - Collecting email addresses of all devotees. The temple has collected about 2800 emails.
 - Managing/maintaining social media which includes website and Facebook.
- President stated that the work involved in the temple is quite demanding and once again, he made an appeal for more volunteers to come forward.

5.4 Renovations and repairs: In 2017 carpet in Gita Bhawan was replaced. Moreover new ceramic tiles were installed in all 4 apartments. The vinyl flooring in the kitchen and serving area was replaced by ceramic tiles. And carpet was replaced by ceramic in hallways, stairs and the Board room. The total cost of this renovation was about \$80,000.

5.5 Management of the temple: All the decision making at the temple is done at the monthly meeting of the board. These decisions are then carried out with the help of coordinators appointed for various activities, Seva Mandal, priests and mangers.

5.6 Unique features of the temple: The President once again outlined some of the unique features of this temple such as:

- Not a regional temple, as it serves the needs of all the Hindus around the globe.
- Concept of trustees (On December 31, 2017 there were 1455 trustees, who have contributed almost 87% of the total funds raised by this temple since its inception. There were over 3600 non-trustees who have contributed the remaining 13%.
- Composition of the Board representing the various sections of the Hindu community in Ottawa
- Emphasis is on education
- Sunday hosting by various regional groups
- Clean and serene atmosphere at the temple
- Transparency (books are open to everybody; information is circulated via newsletter and also placed on the bulletin board)

5.7 Future Plans

- Installation of Gopuram (DG) – No time schedule as yet for the installation of gopuram.
- Installation of new gate at the entrance to the parking lot, which will cost about \$14,000.
- Phase 2 of the temple (Construction of separate new building): The new extension will be built the same way as the main temple. This process is already underway. Application for rezoning is already filed with the City of Ottawa. Harish Gupta (architect) Siddharat Thakar and Hiroo Kirpalani are involved in this process. Cost for rezoning is already over \$84,000.
- Kitchen renovations is already underway; it will cost about \$25,000

5.8 Issue/Challenges

- Youth- Still no organized activity although more youths are coming to the temple.
- Maintenance of Brahma Vidya activity, finding a coordinator to organize sessions on Hinduism for the youth, a Sanskrit teacher.
- Priests- Availability of good and honest priests is always difficult and immigration rules are becoming even more difficult.
- Finding enough volunteers at the temple activities is difficult.
- There are seniors' health issues, including loneliness.

Hindu Temple of Ottawa-Carleton Inc.
4335 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1X 1G6

- Attendance by the board members at the board meetings and their involvement in temple activities especially on Sundays when all the help is needed would help distribute the workload.

5.9 Attendance by the board members at the monthly meeting. In keeping with the temple policy, the president gave an overview of the attendance of the board members at the monthly meeting.

5.10 Thanks: The president expressed special thanks to:

- Seva Mandal for the long list of duties they carry out.
- Premji Kerai, Dilip Waghray, John Wenuk, and Hari Singh for their volunteer work.
- Multicraft for its continuous donation of flowers and other needs of the temple.
- Volunteers who responded at the time of emergency at the temple
- The President recognized the great contribution of Vijaya Parulekar in operational matters, which is a big responsibility.
- President once again conveyed special thanks to Kishori Lal for his great contribution over the last 30 years and his continuous guidance.
- President also thanked Harish Gupta (architect), Hiroo Kirpalani (as the engineer and builder) and Siddharat Thakar for their continuous help for both the existing temple and for upcoming phase 2 construction.

5.11 Volunteers: The president once again emphasized the need for volunteers who provide service to the temple.

5.12 Development around the temple

- The president also mentioned that 3 major housing developments by private builders are underway in the vicinity of the temple.
- Bank St. will be widened to 4-lane highway.
- Armstrong road will be connected to Bank Street.
- As the population in the area goes up, the needs of phase 2 will be felt even more.

6. Treasurer's Report: Navneet Aggarwal

- The treasurer presented the main points of the temple finances. He stated that the accounts are audited every year and the summary of the auditors' report is posted on the bulletin board. The message was that the overall status of the temple finances is quite healthy.
- The trustees unanimously approved the appointment of Connelly and Koshy as auditors for the year 2018/2019.
- Details of what entails to keep the temple finances is as outlined below

1. CRA requirements

2. Work load

 Every Sunday 2 hours

 Every Monday 2 hours (photocopy cheques, sorting out cash donations and cash offerings, collect emails, send acknowledgement letters to donors)

3. Computer entry

4. Donors	Trustees	1455	87 % of the total revenue
	Non- trustees	3689	13% of the total revenue

The general body accepted the activity report presented by the president and the treasurer's report.

7. Election to the Board:

Kanwal Talwar (chairperson of the nominating committee with members Murlidhar Rao Avadhanula and P. L. Khanna) reported that the nomination papers (duly proposed and seconded) of 4 board members, whose terms were ending that day, have been received for their re-election. They were Navneet Aggarwal, Vas Dev Aggarwal, Prem Rawal and Vijaya Parulekar). At the recommendation of the nominating committee, these four trustees were elected as board members for another 3 years.

President indicated that a new board member would be considered at the next board meeting, but he did not identify the prospective new board member.

8. Discussion

During the course of the presentation, there were clarification questions and discussion was held on how decisions are taken in the board, how the upcoming Phase 2 building will be used, and how will it be financed etc. There were a few issues, as given below, which the Board may need to discuss:

1. What is the mechanism if someone has to request a Board action on certain issue? How does that person know whether Board took the decision and what the decision was? Furthermore, are Minutes of the Board Meeting publicly available? And can they be available?

2. If we encounter an intruder or unwanted presence what is the best way to deal with the situation?

Trustees expressed concern about the President coming to the Temple to deal with a hostile man. Trustees expressed that in future situations of this type, the priests should call 911 immediately so that trained personnel (police, ambulance) can attend the scene and take any necessary action.

3. Proxies: One trustee suggested that the constitution should be amended so that there are a minimum number of trustees who should be present at the meeting. Meeting should not be run with proxies only.
4. On question of whether there are designated "Brahma Vidya Fund" and "Building Fund", the Treasurer indicated that he had not seen any documents that would support the existence of such funds. The Treasurer confirmed that the Temple only has one fund that is its sole bank account containing funds.
5. On the related issue, one trustee suggested that the temple should enquire about and think of creating Endowment Funds.
6. Review the list of duties and assign them to all the board members.
7. Phase 2. One trustee indicated that at present there is no need for a new library. Another trustee indicated that it is unlikely that the proposed new building will be used for weddings. Trustees also indicated disapproval of the proposed new building to be used for political activities.
8. Photography in Mahamandap: why the present policy is it enforceable and should it be enforced?

Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.