



### **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

3200 W Sencore Drive, Sioux Falls, SD

2/11/2018

#### **Members Present:**

*Ramesh Singh, Saravanan Vedhachalam, Sanjeev Angal, Samar Gogoi, Shyam Balaji, Vandhana Baireddy, Veera Chandrasekaran, Manohar Velpuri, Archana Chatterjee, Thavam Pillai, Muthu Kumarappan, Chandradhar Dwivedi, Kalyan Boinapalli, Ajay Kittur*

**Quorum present?** Yes

#### **Meeting Agenda:**

- Temple layout presentations by Ajay Kittur, Veera Chandrasekaran, Ramesh Singh.
- Open Discussion and feedback from the members

#### **Meeting Notes**

- Meeting called to order at 2:15pm
- Meeting started with prayer
- Ajay Kittur Presentation - The meeting started with the layout proposal presented by Ajay Kittur. He shared the idea of putting all deities against the west wall facing east. The width of this wall is approximately 30 feet. Of this, 4 feet will be necessary for a wash basin and a utility closet on either side of the wall. The remainder will be used to construct a stage of 22 feet, which will have place for a pedestal (42" x 42" x 42") for each deity. While discussing its pros and cons, he noted that if we were to consider putting deities along the side walls, rather than all of them facing east, it could use up to 4 feet of floor space and could limit the number of devotees the prayer hall could accommodate. To overcome this issue, he suggested an alternative of mounting the deities on the side walls on a mantle like structure to save the floor space. The basic idea behind his presentation was to have all deities facing one direction which will provide a focal point and create a 'wow' factor.
  - An additional factor for consideration was access to deities on the stage. Archana noted that if devotees were to climb the stage, we would have to think about compliance with ADA regulations.
  - There was a brief discussion on the location of chimney for hawan in the temple; its technical aspects will be discussed in more detail once the layout is decided.
- Veera's Presentation - Veera showed a virtual tour of the temple prayer hall. He proposed the idea of multi-directional layout where the deities are placed in multiple directions using "half Sannidhi", rather than a unidirectional approach where the deities are placed facing the same direction. He suggested using a mantle like structures costing \$4000-\$8000 each, representing the architecture of India to house the deities similar to Omaha, and many other

temples. He gave references at other temples to point out that some of the deities in those temples are facing different directions except west. But Considering the importance of the direction of deities in the temple, he has taken into account of the fact that the deities should not be south facing. His proposed 9 deities' layout and 11 deities' layout.

- He suggested that his proposal will give spiritual experience to the visitors, they will be able to walk through every deity and perform their rituals. This will lead to involvement of community in large scale. He added that as rituals are performed pertaining to one god each month therefore this layout will be more suitable.
- Ramesh's Presentation – Ramesh shared his ideas of combining positive aspects of plans from Ajay and Veera. Deities can be installed first on west wall on platform within wooden carved temple like structure. This will provide cost effective aesthetic look and ambience. Ramesh suggested that if in future more deities are needed then these can be installed on both south and north walls at an angle to avoid devotees facing south direction while worshipping. Deities installed in U-shape along full west wall and half south and north walls will keep the focal aspect, maximum floor space available for devotees, and accommodate more deities.
- There was an open discussion on pros and cons of the proposals. While one proposal was better in terms of direct access to the deities while performing the rituals or availability of space for pradakshina, the other proposal was better in terms of more floor space to accommodate the devotees.
- Additional factors to be considered regarding layout is the availability of resources and investment required for each proposal. This will help Deity Committee to decide on the number of deities.
- Layout of deities is a very important decision and therefore it was proposed to call a general body meeting on April 14. Ajay, Veera, and Ramesh are requested to present their proposals at this meeting.
- Other updates and discussion –
  - Archana informed the EC that the fund raising event organized by Dr. Thavam Pillai raised \$21000.
  - Since it is important that deities are respected, it was suggested that members from the community should come forward to perform basic rituals on a daily basis. It is not necessary to open the temple for the public during that time.
  - Some community members have volunteered to sponsor deities and others are ready to sponsor the decoration for deities, but have requested to keep their identity anonymous.
  - Ajay showed some samples of carpet flooring to be used in Temple.

*Old Business:*

- None discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.