

Minutes of the General Body Meeting: November 19, 2005

Jain Society of Greater Cleveland (JSGC) had its Annual General Body Meeting (GBM) of its members starting at 3:15 PM on November 19, 2005, following Mahavir Nirwan (Diwali) pooja at Quality Inn in Richfield, OH.

- Jignesh Shah (President) called the General Body Meeting to order at 3:15 PM. 74+ members were present and per the JSGC constitution the GBM started.
- All nine Executive Committee members namely – Jignesh Shah (President), Meena Jain (Vice President), Dipika Shah (Treasurer), Premal Shah (Secretary), Minesh Shah, Ashwin Turakhia, Mayuri Dalia, Neha Shah, and Tushar Shah – were present.
- The minutes of the previous General Body Meeting held on 09/18/2005, which had been available on the JSGC website, were unanimously approved by members by voice vote.
- Jignesh Shah reviewed the JSGC activities as follows:
 - We had a very successful series of programs throughout the year. Specifically, we celebrated Mahavir Jayanti, a summer picnic, Paryushan functions including Samuhic Parna, Das Lakshan Pooja and, of course, today's Mahavir Nirwan celebration.
 - We started this year's activities with Mahavir Janma Divas in April including Shri Chandrakantbhai Mehta's lecture. The total attendance was about 230.
 - In June we had lectures by Shri Abhaykumarji Shastri for 7 Days.
 - Then we had Shri Dhirajlalji Pandit's lectures for 7 days.
 - Our summer Picnic was a huge success this year with 180+ attendees.
 - Right before Paryushan Parva we had Sri Diptiben Shah's lectures for 7 Days.
 - We had an excellent Paryushan Parva celebration with Shri Girishbhai Shah from California followed by a very well attended Samuhic Parna. Attendance was excellent at all events. For third year in a row, 42 individual families participated for Swapna Darshan in which we had 260+ attendees. Thirteen Tapasvis were honored at the Samuhic Parna function following Samvatsari. Das Laxan pooja followed by GBM had 130+ attendees.
 - The last scholar to visit us this year was Shri Rajnibhai Shah for two days.
 - Jignesh Shah thanked the host families that had made the various lecture series possible. He thanked the six families that had participated this year. They were Hina & Ashwin Shah, Chandra & Koyal Jain, Vinod & Hansa Sutaria, Mukund & Mayuri Dalia, Mahendra & Dipika Shah and Asha & Dilip Narichania.

- He thanked Ashwin and Nipa Turakhia for starting Pathshala at their house. We now have 22 attendees and he also thanked the Teachers, Hansa Sutaria, Mamta Jain, and Pragna Shah, for teaching religious sutras to all kids.
- He thanked Mohan Jain and family for donating land for a Jain Center. He recalled that the donation had been unanimously accepted by the community earlier this year.
- He informed the community that we have scheduled Sri Diptiben Shah for Paryushan Parva 2006. We have received confirmations from Shri Dhirajlal Pandit and Shri Rajnibhai Shah for scholar visits. Talks with Dr. Bharill, Shri Abhaykumarji and Sri Tarlaben Doshi are in progress. We will publish the details in Jain Times as their schedules are confirmed.
- He recognized the following participants for doing Aso month Oli Tapasya: Vinodbhai Sutaria, Hansaben Sutaria, Atulbhai Shah, Mayuriben Dalia, Mukundbhai Dalia, Sevantibhai Shah, Hasmukhbhai shah and Naliniben Shah.
- The Treasurer's report was distributed to all the members present. Dipika Shah (Treasurer) explained the report to the members and invited questions or comments. Dipikaben noted that as shown on the treasurer's report, the balance in Dev Dravya as of 10/31/05 is \$248,524.83 and the balance in Sadharan as of 10/31/05 is \$22,647.37. Jignesh Shah thanked her for continuously looking for better yields for Dev Dravya monies. Pravin Mehta asked if our Sadharan Fund was in a interest bearing account. Dipika Shah indicated it was not but that they would look into that possibility. No other questions or issues were raised and the Treasurer's report was approved unanimously by voice vote.
- Jignesh Shah invited all the current Executive Committee members to the podium and thanked each member for their specific contributions made during the current year.
- Jignesh Shah thanked Vinod Sutaria for his continuous guidance and also thanked Kushal Baid for his help.
- Jignesh Shah requested Kushal Baid to conduct the presentation to the General Body on behalf of the JSJC Executive Committee and Jain Center Committees regarding the Jain Center Project update, and then conduct the question – answer session.
- Kushal Baid made a presentation to the General Body. The presentation is attached at the end of this report in its entirety.
- The outline of the presentation was:
 - Modifications made to charters and memberships of various committees – based on inputs from General Body at the last GBM
 - Activities and Progress to date of various sub Committees.
 - Gabhara
 - Design

- Engineering and construction
 - Fund raising and Finance
 - Path forward
 - Presentation by Manohar Daga, CPA on Alternative Donations (Stocks, Bonds etc.)
 - Comments, Open discussion
- In the presentation a preliminary estimate of Jain Center size proposals and a preliminary estimate of expenses for the Jain Center project along with a projected timeline were presented.
 - Pravin Shah urged the communities to open up their hearts and pockets and donate generously on behalf of Finance committee.
 - Meena Jain presented a wonderful poetry in Hindi urging everyone to donate for Jain Center.
 - The floor was then opened for questions.
 - Sunil Jain wondered if Dev Dravya fund would be used for temple. Kushal Baid said yes, it would be. Kushal Baid further indicated that if we could collect \$1.6M for the project as proposed, then we would use \$250,000 (Dev Dravya) funds in the construction of Deraser, etc leaving \$250,000 from the collected funds, which are all Sadharan, for maintenance and other future costs.
 - Pravin Mehta questioned if we have a plan for Board of Trustees? Kushal Baid mentioned that Vinod Sutaria has already talked to several societies on formation of Board of Trustees. JAINA has a legal team which we will contact. He also mentioned that JSGC would need a change in its constitution in order to form a Board of Trustees. He mentioned that EC will definitely look into formation of Board of Trustees.
 - Guniya Bafna wondered if we have any plans for handling future maintenance costs. Kushal Baid mentioned that as per our information it would cost approximately \$5 per sq. ft. for maintenance costs. If we were to build a 10,000 sq. ft. Center, we would require ~\$50,000 a year for maintenance. If we collect \$1.6M, we will have \$250,000 which could be used to cover maintenance for next several years. Beyond that the Society will need to collect funds for that purpose. He mentioned that such is the case for all temples in USA and even India.
 - Dilip Maniar had 2 questions. First was if we have a time frame of when will we collect all the monies? Second was if we delay construction would we have to send a letter to the donors? Kushal Baid responded that the pledges and their timing were shown in the presentation and we were continuing to look for additional pledges. We have couple of months to decide on what center to build. If we don't collect sufficient money we could either delay our project or make a smaller Center. Regarding construction, Kushal Baid said that was not sure but he thought that we have to start construction within 6 months per

the terms of the donation letter. If we choose to delay the project we will need to send a letter to the donors to get an extension. Kushal Baid mentioned that most probably the donors (Mohan Jain family) will give us an extension.

- Dilip Maniar wondered if we have non-profit tax status with the IRS and if we follow all rules and regulations? Kushal Baid said "We believe so" but the committee will certainly look into it and confirm it. Manohar Daga, CPA offered to help in confirming the non-profit status and this was accepted.
- Mulchand Gala thanked Kushal Baid for a great presentation and wondered if he could have more information on website? Kushal Baid mentioned that all presentations are uploaded on the website along with meeting minutes. Main Center committee has decided to upload updates of various committees beginning of every month starting January.
- Mulchand Gala mentioned if we could have some more communication besides temple related information in Jain Times. He stated that when land was donated there was lack of communication in conveying who donated the land? Kushal Baid mentioned that EC had a letter signed by Dr. K.C. Bhaiji regarding donation of land. While there were some rumors, in the absence of any concrete information, no one could officially say anything different from what the letter stated. The formal announcements were only made during the General Body meeting by Sheetal Jain and Dr. Bhaiji. He mentioned that EC cannot respond based on rumors. To deal with such situations in the future we had specifically formed the Public Relations Committee and if members have any such questions related to the Jain center project, they need to approach Public Relations committee for answers.
- Mulchand Gala expanded on Dilip Maniar's comments on tax exempt status and wondered if we had correct IRS tax exemptions? Manohar Daga indicated that he would look into it. Hasmukh Shah mentioned in a later conversation that they had been donating to the Society via their charitable trust with Fidelity and Fidelity would not have sent the donations to the Society without confirming its non-profit status.
- Pravin Mehta thanked all the members for a great presentation.
- Jignesh Shah thanked everyone for attending this meeting.
- The Annual General Body Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM
