



GUJARATI SAMAJ OF SAINT LOUIS

AGM 2022 Meeting Agenda

Date: Tuesday, Nov 20th, 2022

Location & Time: GSSTL CENTER @ 3:00 pm

1. Prayer – by Ilaben
2. Welcome by the President
3. President appointed Sameer Patel, from the floor, to administer the Annual general body meeting (AGM).
4. Quorum – initially, there was an absence of 2/3rd members to conduct the AGM. All members present (60) were requested and approved conducting the AGM without 2/3rd members present.
5. Review FY 2022 Treasurers Report – Jignesh Patel, the Treasurer, reviewed highlights of the financial report that was previously communicated (email & whatsapp) to the members. Here are some of highlights reviewed – a cash balance of \$180K, paid off \$100K loan to Hillsboro now with an outstanding loan \$200K to Hillsboro & \$60K to SBA. Extension of the building was completed for \$175K which is more than was approved by the AGM. However, we now have 2.5x more storage space and have collected a total of \$185K in donations to offset the cost.
 - Question: higher cost was not communicated to the general body. Ans: one of the main requirements was not to borrow >\$50K. Completion of the storage will not cost a single additional penny to the Samaj and was done in compliance with the by-laws. Additionally, the total storage space now is 3300 sq ft with a cost of \$52 per sq ft (this cost was originally estimated at \$120 per sq ft).
 - Question: how should we undertake such processes in the future? Ans: suggestion from the floor was that since we are setting precedence for future generations, we want to set the right example. Members requested that such changes be clearly communicated Ex: donations for building upgrade vs. expenses, etc. And the committee should pledge by the bylaws.
 - Question: does EC (Executive Committee) & BOT (Board of Trustees) create meeting minutes & can they be published? Ans: All EC meeting minutes are published to a Google drive. Links have been provided to members, in the past. EC will resend the links to access meeting minutes with instructions. BOT will also adhere to the same process to publish their meeting minutes.
 - Question: can you send a notification of when meeting minutes? Ans: EC meets, monthly, on every 1st Tuesday of the month. Meeting minutes of each meetings need to be reviewed & approved during the following EC meeting. Once approved these minutes can be published.

The financial report was approved by the AGM.

6. Review of the accomplishments for the FY 2022

- EC updates by the President – provided an update of 2022 events & highlights. As the EC & BOT continue to operate, there may be a few updates necessary to the by-laws. The changes will be firstly drafted, reviewed and approved by the EC & BOT. After which these will be presented to the membership for review, input and approval. Any changes to the by-laws can only be finalized after an approval by the membership.

The full year report was approved by the AGM.

Note: by the end of these updates 143 members had joined and signed their attendance for the AGM.

7. Q&A

- The members requested and approved extending the Q&A for 30 minutes in order to have sufficient time
- Question: What is the receivable \$75K for hall rental, is it bad debt? Ans: this is not bad debt and will be collected if and when these future dated events occur.
- Question: do Samaj members receive hall rental discount? Ans: we have a structure for member discount sent to members and published on website. The hall incurs \$120K, annually, to keep this building running & maintenance. The facilities provided by the GSSTL Center cannot be compared with Gandhi Center, etc. We have also run comparison with like type facilities. And, we are 50% cheaper with like type facilities.
 - i. We all want to pay off the debt, be able to rent this hall for less fees
 - ii. We need to achieve a happy medium
- Question: small functions, and different types of events for Samaj members should be motivated / promoted by providing discounted pricing Ans: The GSSTL Center has we have Hall G specifically for such smaller & special event functions.
- Labor cost is very high, and it is very hard to find any help. Cost of flipping events (preparing the hall between two events) is the highest cost. Currently, this laborious work of flipping is done by the committee members and any volunteers that we can find.
- If anyone has any suggestions on getting labor and managing labor cost, then we can certainly reduce rental cost soon. Please reach out to Sameerbhai, Rakeshbhai or Jignesh for any suggestions on such labor cost management ideas.
- A suggestion was made to support other non-profit for hall rental cost.
- Develop a forum to receive feedback from the members and share the feedback across all members.
- Question: the committees have done an excellent job and can do more to bring other Guj parts of the community. Ans: number of new members, in 2022, is at a unprecedented high of 375 members. 188 life members have renewed their membership. More people continue to show interest in joining the Gujarati Samaj. Each member of this organization is encouraged to be an ambassador and help in bringing more people into the fold of Gujarati Samaj.
- Can we have members only events – in 2022, half of the events were members only – Holi, Cultural Program, picnic, one Navratri, Diwali and AGM. The EC is balancing between providing more members only events while also being conscious of paying off debt. In 2023, we'll continue to look for additional members only events.

- Stage – lighting & floor needs to be updated. Ans: the EC will certainly look for such updates realizing at the same time that this will need to be factored as additional cost of building update and maintenance.
- Members would like more to be done for senior members like prioritizing their meals, etc.

8. Elections by the Election Commissioners

- The administrator invited and introduced the three members of the Election Commission viz. Gopal Patel, Nayan Patel and Jayesh Desai
- The commissioners provided the following updates & guidance of the election process:
 - i. Seven (7) members of the EC vacated their position. The same seven members reapplied for the vacant positions. There were no other nominations received. And hence all these seven nominations were elected. Here are the newly elected members of the EC: Gaurang Bhavsar, Jatin Bhakta, Mitesh Amin, Amit Bhakta, Mahendrabhai Patel, Prasand Patel, Rajubhai Patel. Congratulations to them.
 - ii. Three (3) members of the BOT vacated their position. Two of these vacating members reapplied and in addition two more nominations were received. Here are the four nominees: Ilaben Tailor, Vinodbhai Patel, Kantibhai Bhakta, Kaushikbhai Bhakta.
 - iii. The commissioners explained the process for electing 3 BOT members from the 4 nominations. Based on 133 votes, casted for the election of the 3 BOT positions, the following three nominees were elected on the BOT: Vinodbhai Patel, Kantibhai Bhakta and Kaushikbhai Bhakta. Congratulations to them.

9. Vote of thanks was given by President Dharmendra (DiDi) Patel.

10. The meeting was adjourned by Sameer Patel.