



Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj

Established in 1932

264 - 13th Avenue
Laudium, Pretoria 0037
E-mail: sphss108@telkomsa.net

Tel/Fax: 012 374 6354
PBO Ref No.: 930014581

PO. Box 14368
Laudium, Pretoria 0037
Web: www.sphss108.co.za

"Satyameva Jayate" - Truth Alone Prevails

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SHREE PRETORIA HINDU SEVA SAMAJ

DATE: Monday, 18 May 2020

TIME: 7:00 PM

VENUE: Video Conferencing (Zoom) Meeting

AGENDA

ITEM	PARTICULARS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
1.	OPENING AND WELCOME	
1.1	Opening Prayer	All
1.2	Moment of silence in lieu of prayer for deceased members	All
1.3	Welcome The Chairman welcomed all to this, the first Samaj Executive Committee meeting, held thru video conferencing technology.	President
2.	QUORUM	Secretary
3.	ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES <u>Attendees:</u> Harshadbhai Pema, Jasminben Govind; Pavanbhai Gandhi; Rameshbhai Chhagan, Nayantaben Naran, Ketanbhai Parmar, Vijaybhai Naran, Vitteshbhai Devchand, Vinaybhai Chagan and Priyamben Singh. Khushiben Dave attended in her capacity as an administrative assistant. <u>Apologies:</u> Mishkaben Devchand, Taraben Bhaga and Ileshbhai Gandhi	Secretary
4.	ANNOUNCEMENTS None	
5.	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES Agenda and minutes approved unanimously	
6.	AMENDMENTS PROPOSED Nil	

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7	CORRESPONDENCE
7.1	INCOMING:
7.1.1	Various appeals for assistance because of the financial impact of Covid-19 on the community.
7.2	OUTGOING
7.2.1	Sent several letters to community requesting donations to assist those whose livelihoods were impacted by Covid-19.
7.2.2	Requested quotes for PPE equipment

8	MATTERS ARISING	RESPONSIBLE	
8.1	SamajChar Newsletter Khushiben to finalize and circulate April newsletter.	Khushiben	Khushiben reported that the April edition of the SamajChar newsletter has been published. Khushiben to start with next edition which will be published in August. Due to suspension of all cultural events, she was advised to instead place more generic articles on Hinduism in the August edition.
8.2	Auditorium Speakers Priyamben to report on progress made in having the speakers installed.		Priyamben reported that the auditorium speakers have been installed.
8.3	Cost of Hiring of Sound Priyamben to submit revised auditorium hire fees which include cost of hire of sound system for approval.	Priyamben	Priyamben undertook to submit revised auditorium hire fees which includes cost of sound system for approval before next exco meeting. The President requested that this matter not be delayed any further.
8.4	Training on Use of Sound System Ileshbhai to arrange for three community members to be trained on use of sound system. Rameshbhai agreed to circulate an invite to community.	Rameshbhai	Rameshbhai undertook to circulate the offer of training once clarity on costs had been established.
8.5	Registration of Balmandir Priyamben to report on progress on registration of Balmandir with Dept. of Social Development.	Priyamben	Priyamben reported that there is a delay from Dept. of Social Development because of covid-19 pandemic.

8.6	Replacement of Toilet Seats This matter is still pending.	Priyamben	Priyamben reported that suppliers are closed, and the work will only be completed once we get the toilet seats.
8.7	18A Status for Samaj SARS had rejected Samaj's application to obtain 18A status on the grounds that the Samaj constitution was more biased towards religious observance and did not emphasise enough charitable activities as required. Rameshbhai subsequently amended the Samaj constitution to align it with SARS requirements and asked Harshadbhai to confirm that the changes are aligned before obtaining approval at the next AGM.	Rameshbhai	Harshadbhai reported that he has gone through the amended Samaj constitution and, in his opinion, it is aligned with the SARS requirements for 18a status. In the light of the prohibition of public gatherings, Rameshbhai agreed to circulate and obtain approval from community for the submission of the amended constitution to SARS.
8.8	Auditorium Renovation Plan Jasminben was requested to lead a task team consisting of Vijaybhai, Vinaybhai and herself to submit renovation proposal, and specs for each renovation aspect (foyer, auditorium, stage, etc), and obtain at least 2 quotes for each aspect to be formed.	Jasminben	Jasminben reported that there have been no further developments regarding the refurbishment project. No meeting nor obtaining additional quotes were possible due to the 5-week lockdown period.
8.9	Emergency Support It was agreed that Rameshbhai will inform the community of the emergency support programme that the Samaj will institute whilst Jasminben will draft a procedure for giving such help.	Rameshbhai / Jasminben	Rameshbhai reported that approximately R50 000 was raised from the community for emergency relief. Jasminben reported that to date over 50 families have been issued with food hampers to the value of R400-R500 each. New requests will be dealt with on a case by case basis. It is also envisaged that those who were supported in April / May will receive assistance again in June if their circumstances have not changed. Members expressed their thanks to all donors for their generosity.
8.10	TDF Banking Account Pavanbhai reported that as he has resigned, the banking account for TDF will be opened by Rameshbhai and Kishorbhai Ramharakh.	Rameshbhai	Rameshbhai reported that he and Kishorbhai would open an account for TDF at the Laudium branch when it re-opens its doors in May.

8.11	AGM The President again reiterated the need for each EXCO member to approach members of the community to serve on the Executive Committee of the Samaj. It was further agreed that Rameshbhai will send out a call for nominations.		Rameshbhai reported that, with the agreement of trustees, he had informed the community that the term of the current office bearers had been extended until such time as the lockdown has been lifted.
8.12	Stairways Members expressed concern that the staircase leading to the office and priest's quarters are very slippery when wet. Vinaybhai produced a quote to build an overhead structure. Members agreed that a second quote was needed but that in the interim rubber strips on the staircase must be installed.	Vijaybhai / Vinaybhai	Vijaybhai undertook to get and install rubber strips for the staircase. Vinaybhai will try to obtain a second quote for an overhead structure in the interim.
8.13	Samaj Wood Crematorium Vinaybhai informed members that in a conversation with a Council official a request was made that we give direction to the Council on the future of the wood crematorium currently in disrepair.	Rameshbhai	Rameshbhai reported that he had spoken to Nava Pillay who is the senior official in charge of the Crematorium. Mr Pillay undertook to meet with him after lockdown.

9. SECRETARIAT REPORT
No report was submitted

10. TREASURER'S REPORT
No report was submitted

11. EDUCATION REPORT
Priyamben had submitted a report on the way forward for the Balmandir Preschool and Gujarati School. This was discussed under 19.3.

12. RELIGION & CULTURE PORTFOLIO REPORT
Due to the lockdown, all festivals were cancelled.

13. SENIOR CITIZEN'S CLUB REPORT

No report was submitted

14 SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO REPORT

As reported earlier, the Social Services Committee had instituted an emergency food hamper programme aimed primarily at assisting recent arrivals from India.

15 TSHWANE DIWALI FESTIVAL REPORT

Priyamben confirmed that the Swartzkop Racetrack outside Laudium had been booked for 2020. However, the event was now in doubt. Nonetheless, a separate company has been registered and a banking account is in the process of being opened up.

16 FACILITIES & FUNERAL REPORT

No report submitted

17 NAVYUG MANDAL REPORT

No report submitted

18 MULTI-MEDIA CENTRE REPORT

No report submitted

19 GENERAL / NEW MATTERS

19.1 *Telkom Line*

Harshadbhai reported that he got a call from Telkom informing him that they were discontinuing the line service and that we needed to change to the ADSL wireless service. According to Pavanbhai the wireless network works well. Rameshbhai asked Harshadbhai to get a hunting line with an additional line to be used exclusively to make outgoing calls. This was to solve complaints received by community that the line was often engaged.

19.2 *Rotation of Office Staff*

Khushiben submitted a request that while lockdown was in operation, office staff should report for duty on a weekly rotational basis. After some deliberation, this request was declined by the exco members.

19.3 *Remote teaching by Preschool and Gujarati schools*

The members discussed the distance learning proposal submitted by Priyamben and it was approved unanimously. Essentially, as from 25 May, teachers would prepare worksheets every two weeks which parents would complete with their children. Priyamben reported that Jayshreeben is sending worksheets to the Gujarati school students. Pavanbhai suggested to implement D6 communication system for the school. Rameshbhai suggested that teachers should also implement interactive sessions by using technology like zoom.

19.4 *Remote Observation of Religious Festivals*

Nayantaben reported that Sunilbhai is currently conducting live Aarti and Hanuman Chalisa prayers every Saturday on Facebook and over 500 people are joining this. Rameshbhai asked Nayantaben to submit a plan for remote observation of religious festivals for this year.

19.5 ***Discourses by Sunilbhai***

Rameshbhai asked Ketanbhai and Nayantaben to engage with Sunilbhai to determine whether he would be prepared to give discourses in Hinduism using technology. He could also invite guest speakers. Nayantaben agreed to contact Sunilbhai regarding this matter.

19.6 ***Readiness for upliftment of lockdown re: Balmandir, Gujarati, Mandir, Auditorium***

Rameshbhai asked Priyamben to draw up a plan for ensuring the health and safety of all visitors to the schools, mandir and auditorium once lockdown is lifted. Priyamben undertook to present this at the next meeting.

19.7 ***Financial Reporting***

Harshadbhai and Pavanbhai undertook to present a composite report of the Samaj finances at the next meeting.

20 NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next zoom meeting will be held on Thursday, 25 June 2020 at 19:00 (7:00pm)

21 CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting ended at 21:10.

SPHSS SECRETARIAT

SPHSS PRESIDENT