



ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦ

God Is One, Through the Guru's Grace Is He Realised

ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਯੀਸ਼ੁਨ
GURDWARA SAHIB YISHUN

601, Yishun Ring Road, Singapore 768684. Tel: 67534607 Fax: 67536786



Date:

Distribution: All Life and Ordinary Members

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GURDWARA SAHIB YISHUN (YISHUN SIKH TEMPLE) HELD ON 15th September 2019

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Honorary President called the meeting to order at 11.50 a.m. however as there were only 25 members present, which was insufficient to form a quorum, the commencement of the meeting was adjourned to 12.00 Noon in accordance with the constitution.
- 1.2 Subsequently, the meeting was called to order at 12.00 Noon by the Honorary President, Sardar Dalwinder Singh and there were a total of 32 members present for the Annual General Meeting.
- 1.3 Ardaas was done by Giani Sukhwinder Singh Ji followed by the Hukumnama prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting. The Honorary President welcomed all members and thanked them for their presence. He then informed all members of the Sangat that he will speak in English for easier understanding of all the proceedings but will also speak in Punjabi if required by any member present. He further added that all proceedings in the Darbar Sahib are being recorded thru the in house CCTV system and sound recording are being done by individuals on their own accord.
- 1.4 Tara Singh raised the motion that non-members of Gurdwara Sahib Yishun should not be present during the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting. The Honorary President replied that it would not be possible to ask any worshipper who has come to the Darbar Sahib, to pray and sit in the Darbar Sahib, to leave the Darbar Sahib.
- 1.5 Sukhdew Singh Bhaloor added that having non-members present in the Darbar Sahib during the Annual General Meeting can cause confusion during certain issues and an example could be when there is vote counting and such had happened in past annual general meetings.
- 1.6 Bhopinder Singh Parmar stated that it is not correct to insist worshippers to leave the Darbar Sahib citing reason of having an annual general meeting as it is the right of any person to sit in the Darbar Sahib. However, Sarban Singh and Charanjit Singh mentioned that an annual general meeting is a member only meeting and as such only members are to be present during the meeting.
- 1.7 Jasbeer Singh stated that in his opinion, which he has also mentioned in previous years, annual general meeting should not be held in the Darbar Sahib as it is not conducive to conduct the same in the Darbar Sahib. He suggested that in order to allow worshippers to pay their respect to Guru Ji, when an annual general meeting is being conducted in the Darbar Sahib, a separate room could be arranged for worshippers to pay their respects.
- 1.8 The meeting then commenced with the Honorary President giving his address and to continue with the rest of the proceedings in accordance with the agenda.

2. President's Address

- 2.1 The President thanked all the members present for their presence and informed all the members that the Annual Report which was provided to all members gave an account of the main activities that were carried out from 1st June 2018 to 30th June 2019.
- 2.2 He thanked the Sangat for their support and attendance at the various activities organised at the Gurdwara Sahib. He added that to further promote religious knowledge, understanding and social interaction the following activities were organized during the reported period of the annual report:
- (i) Mixed racial group of participants took part in Hijrah Night Cycling Event organized by the Nee Soon South CC/RC/IRCC to promote racial harmony in Singapore. All participants were served with fresh fruits during their visit to our temple during the event.
 - (ii) Gurdwara Sahib Yishun also continued to support the Nee Soon South and Chong Pang RC's in their activities to the best of our ability.
 - (iii) Gurdwara Sahib Yishun supported the Silver Chariot Procession organized by Sri Maha Mariamman Temple and provided sweet meats during the event.
 - (iv) Our Granthis along with religious leaders of other faiths performed Ardass at various functions organized by the Inter Religion Organisation of Singapore and Sikh welfare Council.
 - (v) Kirtan classes and learning on how to recite path are led by our Giainis.
 - (vi) Hosting visits by students of educational institutions and recruits from the Home Team Academy to show case and promote the understanding of the Sikh Religion.
- 2.3 He thanked all the Granthis / Ragi Jatha including the Sewadar for whole heartedly supporting all the above mentioned activities carried out.
- 2.4 The President informed all present that the contract status of our Granthis are as appended:
- (i) Bhai Smagh Gopal Singh's, our Sewadar, contract is valid till 31st May 2020.
 - (ii) Giani Satnam Singh's contract is valid till 31st May 2020.
 - (iii) Bhai Sukwinder Singh's contract is valid till 29th February 2020.
 - (iv) Bhai Sandeep Singh's contract is valid till 11th November 2020.
 - (v) Bhai Makhan Singh joined on 8th June 2019 and is still on a probationary period.
- 2.5 The President thanked the Istri Sat Sangh's Matavaan and Bibian for their active involvement in doing the Sukhmani Sahib Paats during the programs in the Darbar Sahib and also for their continuous and whole hearted in the Langgar Hall. He also mentioned of the Sewa provided by our Desi Veers in maintenance works, painting, clean up and also in the preparation of the langgar.
- 2.6 He thanked all the members of the management committee for their attendance at the management meetings and support in the day to day management and operation of the Gurdwara Sahib Yishun.
- 2.7 The President informed all members present that the duties of management committee members go beyond serving at the Gurdwara Sahib Yishun as some of them are also involved in external committees.
- 2.8 He further added that the following members including some from the Sangat required special mention for the various projects that had been recently completed:
- (a) Sardar Jasbir Singh Minhas – oversee the painting of Darbar Sahib & Langgar Hall.
 - (b) Sardar Sukhdev Singh Parmar – oversee the renewal of all lightings and lobby refurbishment.

© Veerji Raju – fabricating photo frame at the lobby for the Golden Temple picture.

(d) Mr. Premlani – donating all ceiling fans and providing one projection system at the ladies sitting area in the Darbar Sahib.

The President mentioned that if the projection system donated by Mr. Premalani is found suitable, we will purchase a similar set as replacement for the men side in the Darbar Sahib.

- 2.9 The President highlighted that Mr. Balbeer Singh Mangat was unable to continue to conduct the audit for us due to unforeseen circumstance and the management committee had utilised the services of Dendrobium Audit PAC to carry out the external audit of our accounts for Year 2018. The audit fees will be at a nominal amount of \$1,500 as advised by the firm.

3. Consider and Pass Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on 19th August 2018

As there were no queries raised, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th August 2018 were passed, being proposed by Sardar Charanjit Singh and seconded by Sardar Jaspreet Singh Chhabra.

4. Consider and Adopt Accounts for the Year 2018

As there were no queries raised, the accounts for Year 2018 were passed, being proposed by Sardar Tara Singh and seconded by Sardar Pritam Singh.

5. Decide on Key Issues as stated in the Annual Report

5.1 Lease Extention

- 5.1.1 The Honorary Secretary, Sardar Sukhdev Singh Parmar, informed all members present that a meeting with Singapore Land Authority (SLA) was held on 25 January 2019 regarding the temple lease renewal. The following were present at the meeting:

- a. Dalwinder Singh – Honorary President
- b. Jasmindar Singh Gholia – Honorary Vice President
- c. Sukhdev Singh Parmar – Honorary Secretary
- d. Sukhdev Singh Chola Sahib – Honorary Treasurer
- e. Charanjit Singh – Trustee

- 5.1.2 Subsequently, Sardar Charanjit Singh, Trustee, who was present at the meeting informed all members that the essential points discussed with the SLA official at the meeting were as appended :

a. The SLA official asked if the temple will seek an extension of the lease which expires in November 2022. He added that some religious institutions faced difficulties in meeting the funding requirement for lease renewal. Hence SLA has come out with a scheme of short-term lease of 6 years where the institutions pay a monthly rental. He stated that based on current rates the estimate is that the Yishun Gurdwara will be charged about \$5,000 per month as rental should the temple adopt this option. He added that the monthly rental sum will be subjected to increase further downstream based on market conditions.

b. Members at the meeting categorically stated that the Gurdwara will likely prefer a 30-year lease extension. The members also asked the likely cost for the 30-year lease extension. The SLA official said he was unable to provide this figure. He stated that a valuation has to be done of the site/property by the appropriate Government agency and this effort can take up to 5 (five) months.

c. The temple was requested to put up a formal request for this to SLA by filling in the requisition form which will be sent to the Gurdwara's Secretary. The fee for the valuation is estimated to be \$1,000.00

- 5.1.3 Jasbeer Singh thanks Charanjit Singh for the comprehensive update of the meeting with SLA and asked if there is any other actions been taken by the management committee considering the amount required for payment of the lease amount. He cited that a donation drive would be a possibility for collection of funds required.
- 5.1.4 The Honorary Secretary, Sukhdev Singh Parmar, stated that Jasbeer Singh had highlighted a good point as funds will definitely be required. He added that the management committee have been, over the years, keeping funds in fixed deposit account in anticipation of the payment of the lease extension in the coming future.
- 5.1.5 Charanjit Singh added that whilst the management committee have kept aside funds for the cost of the lease extension the amount can only be known after an evaluation exercise has been conducted and the results can take up to 5 months.
- 5.1.6 Jasbeer Singh further added that whilst we can expect our lease to be extended, as we all feel that we are located at a safe location, we must take into consideration that any unexpected decision can happen in land scarce Singapore which can effect location and price. He stressed that the management must hasten the process of carrying out the evaluation exercise.
- 5.1.7 All members present unanimously agreed that the group, as mentioned above, continue the dialogue with SLA for the lease extension for 30 years basis and also the evaluation exercise to be commenced without further delays.

5.2 Proposed Gurdwara Sahib at Bukit Batok, Singapore

- 5.2.1 The President informed all the members present that our Vice President, Sardar Jasmindar Singh Gholia, and Honorary Secretary, Sardar Sukhdev Singh Parmar, attended the meeting in regard to the issue of the proposed new building at Bukit Batok.
- 5.2.2 It was highlighted that the building will consist of a 80 / 20 combination of a Sikhi hub at 80% being primarily for facilities such as an old folks home / day care centre for children / community needs and the remaining 20% being for religious services.
- 5.2.3 The tender for the plot of land will be closing by October 2019.
- 5.2.4 Mr. Inderjit Singh will be leading the team in the discussion / ongoing with the relevant governmental authorities.
- 5.2.5 It was also highlighted that 4 Sikh institutions will not support this project if the combination of services provided is reversed i.e. 80% religious & 20% community hub. The 4 institutions are Singh Sabha, Dharmak Sabha, Pardesi Khalsa & Gurdwara Sahib Yishun.

5.3 Appointment of External Auditors

- 5.3.1 The President highlighted that as B.S. Mangat & Co. are unable to continue as our external auditors due to circumstances with the firm.
- 5.3.2 He proposed that we use the firm of Dendrobium Audit PAC to do the external financial audit for our accounts.
- 5.3.3 Sardar Jasbeer Singh stated that it is basically a management committee decision and it should be left to them to decide.
- 5.3.4 As there were no other objections by the members present it was decided that the management committee will decide on this issue.

6. Decide on any Resolutions submitted in writing to Honorary Secretary

6.1 Letter from Honorary Secretary, Sukhdev Singh Parmar

- 6.1.1 The Honorary Secretary, Sukhdev Singh Parmar, informed all the members present that he had submitted a letter of a series of events which are very troubling to him and making it very difficult for him in carrying out his duties at the temple. He mentioned that these issues were brought up in his personal capacity as a member and the letter is not a validation or collective representation of the management committee. All the points in his letter were directed towards Vice President Jasmindar Singh Gholia on various issues relating to the on goings at the temple.
- 6.1.2 He then requested all members to shift themselves forward to be more closer to Guru Granth Sahib as in his opinion one and all will feel that they are closer to the Guruji and thus will made a better judgement of the issues to be raised.
- 6.1.3 All members present did not move forward and sat at their position as it was unanimously agreed that such was not necessary.
- 6.1.4 Subsequently, Sardar Jaspreet Singh Chabbra, Sardar Charanjit Singh and Sardar Jasbeer Singh all collective mentioned that the matter would most probably be an internal committee matter, could be private and confidential and in their opinion should be dealt within the management committee.
- 6.1.5 The Honorary Secretary agreed and did not pursue the matter further and to discuss it within the management committee.

6.2 Letter from Sardar Tara Singh

- 6.2.1 Sardar Tara Singh Maliana requested clarification on the requirement of a member having to be present for his query to be answered during an annual general meeting. He stated that it is not specified in the constitution and if this requirement is made by the management committee or a particular person.
- 6.2.2 The President replied that the requirement of a member to be present for his query to be answered is seek clarity, if required, on the issue that has been raised such that assumptions are not made in the absence of the member who has raised the query.
- 6.2.3 Sardar Charanjit Singh further added that members presence is required for purpose of clarification on the issue raised and that replies given are specific to the issue raised.
- 6.2.4 On the issue of membership cards, Sardar Tara Singh Maliana expressed his disappointment that this issue was "killed" taking reference to the practise at SKA AGM where members were able to produce NRIC's instead of membership cards.
- 6.2.5 Sardar Charanjit Singh mentioned that the numbers of members dictates the requirement of membership and it can be a costly exercise of producing membership card for a small group of people.

6.3 Letter from Sardar Bhopinder Singh

- 6.3.1 The letter from Sardar Bhopinder Singh stated that the Treasurer, Sukhdev Singh Chola Sahib, had acted on his own accord in appointing another agent from NTUC Income to take over all his insurance policies that he had been handling for Gurdwara Sahib Yishun.
- 6.3.2 The letter also mentioned that Sukhdev Singh Chola Sahib, being the Treasurer and also an insurance agent himself, showed a personal interest to benefit a friend or himself in acting on his own accord to change the insurance agent.

6.3.3 Sukhdev Singh Chola Sahib replied that he is no longer an insurance agent and in the matter of change of insurance agent the President has taken up the matter with him and the agency was reverted to Bhopinder Singh.

6.3.4 He further added that his sole objective was to get competitive rates and there was no personal interest in this matter on his part. He apologised to Bhopinder Singh on this matter and to all present on going ahead with the change of agency without taking up this matter in the management committee meeting.

6.3.5 Sardar Bhopinder Singh stated that he will be discontinuing his services to be an insurance agent for Gurdwara Sahib Yishun.

7 Any Other Matters

Sardar Charanjit Singh requested that the management committee should refrain from washing dirty linen in public of its internal issues and humbly requested that the management committee work together as a team and iron out their internal issues.

8 Conclusion

8.1 As there were no other matters, Sardar Dalwinder Singh thanked all the members for their presence and encouraged one and all to actively participate in all the Gurdwara activities and more importantly the Sewa.

8.2 The meeting ended at 2.10 pm which was followed by an Ardaas by Giainiji Sukhwinder Singh

Recorded by:



Manminder Singh

Vetted by:



Amarpal Singh
Honorary Secretary

Approved by:



Dalwinder Singh
Honorary President