



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

**ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਯੀਸ਼ੁਨ**  
**GURDWARA SAHIB YISHUN**

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Date: 31 December 2020

Distribution: All Life and Ordinary Members

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GURDWARA SAHIB YISHUN (YISHUN SIKH TEMPLE) HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Honorary President at 12.05pm as there were 82 members present and this was sufficient to form a quorum in accordance with the constitution to commence the Annual General Meeting.
- 1.2 Ardaas was done by Giani Makhan Singh Ji followed by the Hukumnama prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting.
- 1.3 The Honorary President welcomed all members present in the Darbar Sahib and requested all non-members to kindly proceed to the separate room, which had been set up, to continue with their prayers. The Annual General Meeting then continued with his address and the rest of the proceedings.

**2. President's Address**

- 2.1 The President thanked all the members for their presence and mentioned that he was pleased with the large turnout which was a testimony to that fact that the Sangat was interested in the wellbeing and proper functioning of our Gurdwara.
- 2.2 He informed the members that the Annual Report which was provided to all members gave an account of the main activities that were carried out from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.
- 2.3 The President read out a summary of his report to the Sangat and mentioned that the activities at the temple was effected by the COVID 19 situation and Management Team had a difficult time, as with any other organization, in complying with the restriction that were enforced by the Governmental authorities. In this respect, he apologised to one and all for the short coming during these difficult times.
- 2.4 He also mentioned that the suspension of activities during the lock down period was a difficult period that had to be managed in compliance with the various rules and regulation that were being enforced on all organisations. This was done despite the fact that we were operation with a reduced staff during these difficult times.
- 2.5 He welcomed all the new members who had enrolled as life and ordinary members and requested them to support and partake in the activities that will be organized by the incoming committee.
- 2.6 The President mentioned that the 30 year lease of Gurdwara Sahib Yishun will expire on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 and that Charanjit Singh will give an overview of the ongoing on the lease renewal process during this Annual General Meeting.
- 2.7 In conclusion he thanked the Gurdwara staff, members, well-wishers and entire Sangat in the operation of the Gurdwara in these difficult and unprecedented period. He then whole heartedly apologised to the Sangat for all the short comings of the Management Committee during these difficult period and

requested one and all to support the activities at Gurdwara Sahib Yishun and also the incoming committee.

**3. Consider and Pass Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

- 3.1 The President mentioned that Tara Singh had pointed out that the minutes that were circulated to members were not signed off by relevant parties involved in the preparation of the minutes.
- 3.2 He informed all members that the document will be endorsed upon the approval of the members present that the minutes of the last held annual general meeting are in order.
- 3.3 As there were no further queries raised, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were passed, being proposed by Charanjit Singh and seconded by Ranjit Singh Khaira.

**4. Receive and Adopt Annual Report for Period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

As there no queries raised on the Annual Report for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the report was unanimously approved by the Sangat present.

**5. Receive and Adopt Accounts for the Year 2019**

- 5.1 Mejar Singh Gill queried, as an observation only, why there was a substantial drop in the Golak collection from Year 2018 against 2019. He asked if there was any explanation for this drop.
- 5.2 The President replied that he had no answer to the query on this drop.
- 5.3 Mejar Singh Gill further queried regarding about the amount \$200 under category of Fine and Penalty.
- 5.4 The President replied that was a fine of \$200 was imposed by NEA for mosquito breeding that was detected during a surprise inspection.
- 5.5 As there were no further queries raised, the accounts for Year 2019 were passed, being proposed by Mejar Singh Gill and seconded by Jaspreet Singh Chabbra.

**6. Approve Sum of \$10,000 to be paid to Central Gurdwara Board for the Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations held in November 2019**

- 6.1 Mejar Singh Gill requested an explanation from the management committee as to how such a state of affairs had come about in Gurdwara Sahib Yishun that we are now discussing about an event that took place in November 2019.
- 6.2 He further added that 2 prominent members of the Sikh community, who were part of the anniversary celebrations organization committee, namely Inderjeet Sigh and Gurdip Singh Usma had considered leaving Gurdwara Sahib Yishun out of the float procession route, just 2 days prior to the event date, due to the lack of cooperation with the organising committee on the proceeding of the float procession and the payment apportionment.
- 6.3 Balwinder Singh stated that it is incorrect to just listen to hear say accusations and that the 2 prominent Sikhs should be present to verify their claim of non-cooperation from Gurdwara Sahib Yishun.
- 6.4 The President interjected that he had during the meetings held for the anniversary celebrations mentioned that he required the necessary approval from the Sangat due to the amount required and that it could only be done during an annual general meeting. Thus, he was in no position in agreeing to the payment \$10,000 as the amount required to be paid by Gurdwara Sahib Yishun.
- 6.5 He further apologised that he had also inadvertently missed out in getting the approval from the Sangat during the last Annual General Meeting held in September 2019.
- 6.6 Jispal Singh queried as to would have been the outcome if the members present during the annual general meeting disagreed with the proposal on the payment of the amount requested being \$10,000 in this instance.

- 6.7 Mejar Singh Gill proposed that in order to avoid such a situation, which has lead into such a state of affairs, a resolution be passed proposing that the Management Committee should be allowed to approve a reasonable amount if the event is organised as a collective national effort.
- 6.8 The President agreed with Mejar Singh Gill that this a good way forward to avoid such situations.
- 6.9 Sukhdev Singh Parmar stated that there should be a cap or limit on the amount that can be approved by the Management Committee.
- 6.10 Charanjit Singh mentioned that the constitution is very clear about the amount that can be expended by the Management Committee however this can be circumvented by sending out a note to all members requesting for approval of such expenses which are for a collective national events. This can also keep them informed of the upcoming event and also to record any objections from member.
- 6.11 Baldev Singh seconded Charanjit Singh's proposal.
- 6.12 As there were no further queries the proposal by Charanjit Singh and seconded by Baldev Singh was accepted by all the members present.

## **7 Appointment of External Auditors**

- 7.1 The President highlighted that we are currently using the firm of Dendrobium Audit PAC to do the external financial audit for our accounts.
- 7.2 He asked if there was any objections in continuing to use the same firm to do the external financial audit of our accounts.
- 7.3 Tara Singh Maliana proposed that we continue with the same auditors and as there were no objection it was accepted by the rest of the members to continue using Dendrobium Audit PAC.

## **8 Gurdwara Lease Update**

- 8.1 Charanjit Singh updated members on the status regarding the lease renewal for the Gurdwara Sahib Yishun and in essence informed the members of the following ongoing.
- 8.2 The Singapore Land Authority (SLA) has agreed in principle to recommend to the President of the Republic of Singapore that a fresh 30-year lease for Gurdwara Sahib Yishun be granted.
- 8.3 The key outstanding issue is when the fresh lease should be triggered. Although the trustees have written to SLA that this should start once the current lease expires in Nov 2022, SLA did not accede to the request.
- 8.4 He added further that based on the original built-up area of 1082.82 sq. meters, the premium for a new development at the site could be about \$800,000 based on current rates (URA Sept 2020 Development Charge Rates). However, he said he was not sure how SLA would compute the fresh lease premium payable for an existing building and also considering the fact that we have expanded our built-up area, especially lift and passageway at Level 2 and the rear of the kitchen.
- 8.5 Ultimately, the management committee and the trustees have to deliberate once the final offer is received from SLA and propose the way forward based on prevailing market conditions as well as taking into account the impending GST hike. He reminded members that \$395,160 was paid for the lease way back in 1992 whilst GST was not in force then. The proposed approach for realizing the fresh 30-year lease will then be put forward to the Sangat for a decision including the funding mechanism for the fresh lease.
- 8.6 Mejar Singh Gill said that it is good to keep the Sangat updated on the lease situation. He further stated that funds will also be need for essential renovations works.
- 8.7 Charanjit Singh agreed that besides the lease payment, funding will also be needed for new fire safety requirements that need to be fulfilled to obtain the fresh lease. To assess these requirements, a Qualified Person may need to be engaged to provide expert advice.

**9. Decide on any Resolutions submitted in writing to Honorary Secretary**

The following letters that were received from various members of the Sangat were jointly answered by the President and Secretary as appended:

**9.1 Letter from Sukhdev Singh Bhaloor**

Question 1: Why was a non member of the Management Committee appointed to the Sikh Advisory Board?

Answer: The nominations for 4 members from the SAB were requested in June 2020 however only 3 members were willing to be nominated. Charanjit Singh, being a trustee, were nominated as the 4<sup>th</sup> nominee. Jagdev Singh stepped down as a SAB member and was not removed. The appointments of 2 members was done by the SAB.

However, we leave it to the incoming committee to make changes as they see fit.

Question 2: New Trustees to be appointed as the lease is coming to an end.

Answer: The nomination of trustees is clearly spelt out in the constitution. Kindly refer to Clause 33 and 34 with regards to change of trustees. The incoming committee can carry out this exercise in accordance with the constitution.

**9.2 Letter from Tara Singh Maliana**

Question 1: What has the present committee done to prevent non-members to come into Darbar Sahib during AGM?

Answer: The separate room has been set up to allow Sangat to pay their respect to Guruji and do their prayers.

Question 2: Some new members did not receive AGM letters.

Answer: All AGM documents were posted out as per the address stated on their membership form. We are unable to explain the non-delivery.

Question 3: Harpreet Singh (issue of poaching)

Answer: This query was already discussed during the last AGM held between Sukhdev Singh Parmar and Jasmindar Singh Gholia and we consider this matter closed.

Question 4: Sandeep Singh (treatment by MC on his duties / responsibilities)

Answer: Sandeep Singh was granted home but did not return to duty after his leave on his own accord. At no time did he air his grievances to any member of the MC on his duties / responsibilities. The person that wanted to stay in the temple premises was not a relative but his own friend. Hence he was not allow to stay at the temple premises.

Question 5: Donation Box at the Entrance to Langgar Hall (opening / closing & lock system)

Answer: There was only one lock for the donation box which was held by the then Secretary Sukhdev Singh Parmar. There were never 2 locks on this donation box. Treasurer Sukhdev Singh Chola Sahib requested the key from Sukhdev Singh Parmar and there is still only one lock for the donation box. Currently the box is opened on the same day, in the presence of the Assistant Treasurer, that the main golak is opened and all takings are counted collectively.

Question 6: Biometric Access at Priest Room (cost / accessibility)

Answer: The biometric access was installed about 4 to 5 years ago at no cost to the temple. This was donated by a well-wisher, Harbir Singh Chola Sahib, as some Priest had complained about lack of privacy especially when changing etc. in their own room. Not all MC members have access to gain entry.

Question 7: Cleaning Contractor

Answer: Anchor Cleaning Services were not terminated but left on their own accord. Whilst we have not engaged a regular cleaning contractor mainly due to the COVID situation we have carried out cleaning services on an ad-hoc basis. During the lock down no contractor was allowed hence we are using cleaning contractors on an ad-hoc basis with the assistance of the Sangat. Deep cleaning has been done on 3 occasions in February, July and November 2020.

### 9.3 Letter from Piara Singh

Question 1: No lighting / decoration during Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

Answer: For 2019 the lightings were installed on the roof perimeter hence not very visible however in 2020 we have installed the lightings from roof to hang downwards. We apologise for our oversight and acknowledge that we could have done much more in terms of light up and decoration for this grand occasion.

Question 2: Why was Ajmer Singh not allowed to speak on the stage during Desi Veer Program?

Answer: The granting of permission for speakers in religious institutions is governed by the protocol put in place by Governmental authorities. Furthermore this was further aggregated by the situation at that point of time and we apologise for not been able to allow the speaker to give his speech.

Question 3: 2 individuals staying in temple during the Covid period

Answer: The 2 individual were pathis/kirtanis from India and were stranded in Singapore during the lock down period due to being unable to return to India. As our Gurdwara was also experiencing a short of manpower at that point of time we allowed them to stay at temple premises and they also helped out in the day to day religious duties and responsibilities. As soon as their visit passes expired they left our premises to return to India.

### 9.4 Letter from Sukhdev Singh Parmar

Question 1: Why restricting the number of members attending to 50?

Answer: It was only due to the Covid situation and as a matter of precaution to manage the meeting safely we had proposed the attendance to 50. The number was capped at 50 with the safety of the Sangat as a priority. As a matter of fact, the actual attendance was 82 with social distancing being implemented during the annual general meeting.

Question 2: Why change process of how election to be conducted?

Answer: The proposed change to the election process was again taken with due consideration of taking the safety of Sangat in mind solely due to the Covid situation. This was since reverted back to the constitutional format of election.

### 9.5 Letter from Jasmel Kaur

Question 1 & 2: Why speakers denied / allowed to speak on stage?

Answer: Speakers are allowed or denied to speak on stage based on the guidelines / protocol of the governmental authorities and management committee. A similar question has already being answered earlier.

Question 3: Why was making of chappati denied in the temple on death of my brother but allowed on another occasion?

Answer: During the death of your brother the temple was in a lock down status hence no cooking for external location was allowed to be done. The other occasion was during the month at end August and at that time some restriction were lifted and cooking was allowed.

#### 9.6 Letter from Mejar Singh Gill

The letter contained questions, short comings and concerns of the following issues:

- (a) Poor Administration of Temple During COVID Period
- (b) Consider Use of Sachkhand Room for Live Kirtan
- (c) Shortfall in Banking of Cash at Bank
- (d) Non Display of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)
- (e) Temple Renovation

Answers:

Points (a) and (b)

Discussion on some of the issues in these 2 areas were held between the President / Secretary and Mejar Singh Gill and it was agreed that the situation regarding Points (a) and (b) could have been better managed during Covid period. It was accepted that there were short comings on the part of the Management Committee and they seek the understanding and apologise for any inconvenience caused to the Sangat.

Point (c)

The shortfall was discussed in a Management Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and the mistake as explained by the Treasurer was an error in the recording, not counting, of the 10 Dollar bills.

Upon completion of golak count on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012, there were a total of 405 pieces of 10 Dollar bills which were stacked in 4 stacks of 100 bills and 5 loose bill. However upon recording on the statement which is used to verify the total golak count the 10 Dollar bills were recorded as 450 bills instead of 405 bills as counted.

This error was spotted by the bank as the recorded 450 bills did not tally with the cash in hand that was with Harpreet Singh and Sandeep Singh. There was a shortfall of \$450 due to the incorrect recording by the Treasurer on the golak count slip held by our Giainis.

They reported the shortfall to President Dalwinder Singh and he instructed both of them to return with all the cash back to the temple.

The Assistant Treasurer then recounted the 10 Dollar bills and verified that the bills were only 405 pieces and not 450 pieces as recorded on the golak count slip.

Subsequently the correct amount of 405 bills being \$4,050 was deposited.

This matter was brought up and discussed in the management committee meeting and President instructed the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to be accurate in the recording as it was public money that we are handling and as such the Management Committee is answerable to the Sangat.

The error was acknowledged and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

Point (d)

These can be installed at appropriate locations which can be decided by the incoming committee.

Point (e)

As the Management Committee was unsure on the lease extension, the issue of temple renovation was held for the time being till we are sure of the extension and the amount of work that will be required to satisfy the lease extension requirement namely safety and other compliance requirement.

It was agreed that the management Committee had not done any specific donation drive towards renovation apart from what has been already done on a single project basis such as lighting replacement and painting of the temple.

However, it was acknowledged that there is a requirement to do renovation and appropriately to collect funds to do the same.

Mejar Singh Gill had informed the President and Secretary that the incoming committee will initiate their plans for the renovation and we sincerely encourage the Sangat in supporting the incoming committee to carry out this project.

The President and Secretary once again together with their committee acknowledge that mistakes had been made and apologise sincerely for the same.

**10. Resignation of the Current Management Committee by the outgoing President and Nomination of Pro-term President to elect new Management Committee**

- 10.1 The current President, Dalwinder Singh, offered the resignation of his entire Management Committee and thanked the support that he and his team has received from the Sangat.
- 10.2 He expressed his sincere apologies for all his and his teams short comings during their time in office and especially so during the Covid 19 situation as these were difficult and unprecedented time.
- 10.3 He then requested for nomination of a Pro-term President to conduct the remaining of the proceeding during the Annual General Meeting and as none were forthcoming he continued with the proceeding.

**11 Elect Members for the Management Committee for Year 2021 and 2022**

- 11.1 As there were no nomination for the various positions for the incoming Management Committee the following offered their service to serve:

President	: Mejar Singh Gill
Vice President	: Jaspreet Singh Chabbra
Honorary Secretary	: Harbhajan Singh s/o Mewa Singh
Assistant Honorary Secretary	: Piara Singh
Honorary Treasurer	: Tara Singh
Assistant Honorary Treasurer	: Sukhdew Singh
5 Ordinary Committee Members	: Parmjit Singh
	: Daljit Singh s/o Chand Singh
	: Harinder Singh
	: Balaur Singh s/o Makan Singh
	: Avtar Singh Gosal s/o Mewa Singh Gosal
Co-Opted Members	: Ranjeet Singh
	: Iqbal Singh
	: Gurdev Singh
	: Gurdip Singh

- 11.2 As there were no objection whatsoever from the members present, the above were unanimously accepted, with the blessing of Waheguru, to form the Management Committee for Years 2021 and 2022.
- 11.3 The outgoing President, Dalwinder Singh, welcomed the incoming President, Mejar Singh Gill, to the stage to give his address.
- 11.4 The incoming President, Mejar Singh Gill, thanked all for their endorsement to form the Management Committee and stated that the work of managing the temple activities be it religious, administrative, finance, maintenance, langgar or others required the services of many more people than the Management Committee. He requested the support of one and all to assist in any way possible.

## 12 Conclusion

- 12.1 As there were no other matters, the outgoing President, 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.
- 12.2 The meeting ended at 2.30 pm which was followed by an Ardas by Giainiji Makhan Singh.

Recorded by:

Vetted by:

Approved by:



Manminder Singh  
Committee Member



Amarpal Singh  
Honorary Secretary



Dalwinder Singh  
Honorary President

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