



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

ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਯੀਸ਼ੁਨ

GURDWARA SAHIB YISHUN

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Date: 18 July 2023

Distribution: All Life and Ordinary Members

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF GURDWARA SAHIB YISHUN HELD ON 02ND JULY 2023.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Vice President Sardar Harbhajan Singh Gosal took the rostrum at 1130 hrs and informed members that the total number of members physically present were only 22 persons and that being short of the minimum number of 40 members required to form the quorum as per rules 17 and 18 of the Gurdwara Sahib Yishun's Constitution, the meeting will be postponed for half an hour. At 1200 hours, the roll call was taken by the Secretary, Sardar Piara Singh, and with 46 members confirmed in attendance, he then called the meeting to order.
2. Ardaas was performed by Giani Gurpreet Singh Ji followed by the Hukamnama prior to the commencement of the AGM.
3. The Secretary, Sardar Piara Singh, thanked all the members present for attending the Annual General meeting and continued with proceedings. He briefed members on the meeting agenda, which had earlier already been sent to all members 2 weeks prior to the meeting in accordance to the constitution. He then invited the President, Sardar Jaspreet Singh Chhabra, to continue with the rest of the proceedings in accordance with the agenda.

PRESIDENT ADDRESS

4. Sardar Jaspreet Singh thanked all members for taking their time out to attend the AGM. He requested the co-operation of all members in ensuring that the meeting is conducted with proper decorum and in an amicable manner without any heated arguments. Notwithstanding the need for 7 days notice to be served by members for raising any other matters as per the constitutional requirement, his MC was open to discussing any matter openly with or without notice being served, as was always insisted upon by previous MCs. All matters will be

9. There being no queries, the Annual report was passed with Sardar Karam Singh Rodeh proposing and Sardar Daljit Singh seconding the report.

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2022

10. The Hon. Treasurer, Sardar Manminder Singh, took to the rostrum and briefly ran through the main components of the report related to income and expenditure as detailed in the audited Financial Statement for Year 2022. He then opened the floor for members to raise their queries, if any.

11. Sardar Jasbir Singh Minhas sought a clarification, as to why there is still an amount of \$146,735 as at 31st December 2022 carried forward under Leasehold Land and Building (Page 13 of the Financial Statement) despite that fact that our lease has expired in November 2022. In his opinion, the amount should have been totally depreciated.

12. The Hon Treasurer, mentioned that, whilst he not a professional accountant, he will try to give a logical answer to the query raised and after which he will also consult with our external auditors, Meridian Audit, to check if his response is correct or otherwise and report to members if there is any differing view. He explained that the category of Leasehold Land and Building has 2 components to the cost, namely cost of leasehold land and cost of the building erected on the leasehold land. The cost of leasehold land which was acquired in Year 1991 from the HDB has depreciated to zero value, after useful lifespan of 30 years. However, the cost of the building which was completed in 1996 with rectification / repair work in 2000 & 2001 still has a residual value and that was the cost as stated in our financial statement.

Afternote: The above explanation was subsequently re-confirmed by the external auditors, Meridian Audit.

13. The Hon Treasurer then gave an overview of the current financial status of Gurdwara Sahib Yishun:

a. **Cash in bank as at 30.06.2023:** \$926,053.61

Fixed Deposits currently maintained in Maybank:

1st FD at \$503,133.36 @ 3.7% for maturity on 18.08.2023 (\$512,364.83)

2nd FD at \$506,500.00 @ 3.2% for maturity on 15.06.2024 (\$522,752.41)

b. **Building Fund as at 30.06.2023:**

Collected: \$771,470.00

Utilisation for upgrading / renovations / improvement projects: Approx \$350,000

raised solely for lift and air-conditioning etc but that too without any plans for their replacement at completion or expiry of appropriate lifespans. Recognising these unsatisfactory state of affairs, the new MC embarked on raising funds not just for the critical outstanding works and replacement etc, but also for financial planning for the future. The MC has adopted a very responsible and prudent approach to not only undertake whatever is critical and essential but also to stagger the renovation works such that their replacements too can be staggered and better managed financially over period of time. What was most unfortunate was that a handful of these so-called leaders, having failed in their general responsibilities, resorted to spreading malicious rumours that the Gurdwara had more than enough funds and hence no need for fundraising being undertaken by the new MC. But as the Waheguru Ji would have it, such sinister motives were bound to fail and have failed, and today the Gurdwara is generally financially sound, albeit not as good as the other Gurdwaras who are much better off in terms of their financial state of affairs. In short, we would be able to allocate funds for future lease extension needs. But the plan is to do it systematically and in stages.

19. With reference to Sardar Ajit Singh's assertion that it is mandatory to have the additional two Trustees as per the amended constitution, Sardar Mejar Singh Gill made reference to the Singapore Government's Trustees Act 1967 and informed members that there is no such provision in the Trustees Act, a copy of which was available for reference by members, if necessary. Sardar Charanjit Singh then insisted that since there is a resolution, it should be acted on as AGM is "supreme". He cited Rule 10, which reads "The supreme authority of the Temple is vested in a General Meeting the members presided over by the President". Sardar Mejar Singh Gill explained that Rule 10 is valid but to pick it in isolation without consideration of the "spirit" of the Constitution as well as all the background and reasoning by the MC is rather short sighted. Notwithstanding this, since the two Trustees are raising the matter, albeit without any prior formal discussion with the MC, he personally, despite his misgivings in the way matter was being handled, had no objections to the matter and would leave it to the President to take over the election process.

20 The President Sardar Jaspreet Singh commented that he had not heard of a similar incident in other Gurdwaras where 2 Trustees demanded for such a resolution. But notwithstanding this, instead of calling for voting on matter, he would allow for nominations for the two additional Trustees being argued for. Sardar Harinderpal Singh Grewal's name was proposed by Sardar Gurmit Singh and seconded by Sardar Rajminder Singh. Sardar Sukdev Singh Chola Sahib then read a letter written by Sadar Gurdip Singh (who was overseas at the time and not in attendance) offering to be nominated as a second Trustee. Sardar Jaspreet Singh mentioned that, as per prevailing practices, absent members cannot be appointed to elected posts. All members agreed. Sardar Sukhdev Singh then "nominated himself" for the post of Trustee. After an awkward silence during a short lapse of time, Sardar Jagjit Singh proposed Sardar Sukhdev Singh and he was seconded by Sardar Gurmit Singh Manuke. The two Trustees, namely Sardar Harinderpal Singh and Sardar Sukhdev Singh were elected as Trustees.

Afternote: Given the manner in which the Trustees were being nominated and appointed, a meeting was subsequently held between the Trustees and MC on 16 July 2023 where discussion took place regarding Rule 34 of GSY's constitution, which states that "Notice of any

then went on to explain the background of the matter in so far as Gurdwara Sahib Yishun was concerned. He mentioned that when the Gurdwara Constitution was first prepared in 1995, it was deliberately kept brief and simple, following the rich collective Sikh Community traditions of the Naval Police and Sembawang Gurdwaras, i.e. with a single membership for all Sikhs, irrespective of regional affiliations. Sardar Darshan Singh had then proposed the inclusion of the "associate member" clause to accommodate the Sindhi community who may wish to be members but with the caveat that they not have any voting rights and hold no MC positions. Sardar Mejar Singh Gill mentioned that he personally had no issues in inclusion of Sindhis and that we could easily delete the "associate member" and indicate that membership be open to all "Sikhs and Sindhis" but this was a matter for all members to decide. He opened the matter to the members present for discussion. The unanimous consensus, however, was to keep the rule as it is."

21. Given the discussions and the general consensus on matter previously, Sardar Mejar Singh Gill commented that the matter should be put to rest unless of course members were in consensus to do away with "associate" membership altogether or to make any other rules on matter. He again reiterated that he had nothing personal against such membership but given that it was something that had been manipulated, vis-à-vis the Constitution, by previous MCs, the matter had to be appropriately clarified. As to Sardar Jasbir Singh's observation that the name continued to be reflected in the attendance sheet together with the life members, Sardar Mejar Singh Gill acknowledged that it was an administrative error and needs to be corrected. There were no other suggestions on matter.

Afternote: The MC did a formal check on Mr Premiani's membership application duly signed and dated 29 Jul 2006, and therein it is reflected that the application is for an "Associate Member", with the duly appended signatures of then office bearers, namely Sardar Jagdev Singh as President, Sardar Jaspreet Singh Chhabra as Secretary and Sardar Gurmit Singh as Treasurer.

Minimum members for Quorum at AGM

22. Sardar Charanjit Singh drew attention to Code of Governance of ROS which states that the recommended quorum for General meeting is at least 25% of the total voting membership or 30 voting members, whichever is lesser, to be present. He noted that it is difficult to get 40 members at GSY AGMs. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Chola Sahib mentioned that this matter had already been discussed at last AGM. Sardar Mejar Singh Gill also noted that the matter had been discussed at last AGM and that we had decided to adopt the higher threshold of 40 voting members. This is because, notwithstanding the difficulty in getting the quorum over the years, ROS has always allowed us to amend our Constitution based on two thirds members present notwithstanding Rules 17 and 18 on quorum. Nevertheless, we could always revisit this matter should there be any problems in future, if necessary.