



FORT WAYNE BHAJAN SOCIETY Inc.

14335 Blue Heron Chase, Roanoke, IN 46783

Federal Tax ID 35-1806648 (non-profit)

(260) 672 8688

bhajansociety@gmail.com

Minutes of Meeting
Board of Directors Meeting
2:00PM - 3:00PM, Wednesday Jan 1, 2025
Unitarian Universalist Church
5310 Old Mill Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Attendees:

Vasant Mapara	Ajay Gupta
Shanmugasundaram Subramanian	Pallavi Merchant
Ramesh Narang	Harish Ardeshta
Vikram Gupta	Reena Thapa
Jyothi Venkatakrishna	Krishnan Ramani

Attendance by Proxy:

Abhijit Shukla (Proxy to Vikram Gupta)
Neerja Singh (Proxy to Pallavi Merchant / Jyothi Venkatakrishna)

Absentee:

Harish Shah

- The President called the meeting in session, and the meeting started at 2:05 PM.
- Haresh Ardeshta motioned to approve the meeting minutes of Nov 7th board meeting, which was seconded by Krishnan Ramani. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the meeting minutes was carried out.
- 2025 events calendar was discussed. Ramesh Narang proposed to include the dates of Fort Wayne Garba as well as start timings of the events. The board unanimously adopted the calendar.
- Ajay Gupta informed the board that the Unitarian Church Organization would be installing security cameras and lights around the building as well as covering the windows of the building. This was due to an unsafe discriminatory targeting of the church by certain elements of the society. As an additional security measure, the church advised FWBS (Fort Wayne Bhajan Society) to lock the entrance door once an event starts similar to their practice.
 - The board also discussed engaging a third-party security service for the major events. Ajay Gupta to explore the options.
 - The board also discussed locking the entrance door once the event starts and having a volunteer to open the door as the community members arrive after the event starts.



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- The board also discussed about using the event invitation e-mail as 'entry ticket,' but the idea was dropped as this might add inconvenience to the members of the community.
 - There were two motions placed:
 - i. Engage Security only - motioned by Haresh Ardeshta and seconded by Jyothi Venkatakrishna and was passed with 11 yes votes
 - ii. Engage Security and lock the entrance - motioned by Krishnan Ramani and seconded by Pallavi Merchant and was passed with all yes votes
 - The board recommended inclusion of Abhijit Shukla in the Finance Committee as two other members (Sudhakar Krishnan and Deepak Gandhi) opted out. The board also advised that the Finance Committee to provided quarterly updates.
 - Vasant Mapara informed the board that the present insurance coverage addresses the FWBS organizational liability and does not include Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance.
 - The board advised Finance Committee to explore D&O insurance and develop recommendations
 - Vasant Mapara informed the board that the funds were recovered and deposited in the FWBS' account. This fund was fraudulently obtained by a scammer through a deceitful way of reaching out Vasan Mapara.
 - The board discussed the modus operandi of the scammer and how this situation occurred. In essence, the scammer used Ajay Gupta's name using a fraudulent e-mail address with a message asking Vasant Mapara to mail a cashier's check, which he did.
 - The breakdown occurred due to not cross-checking with Ajay Gupta prior to dispersing the funds. The board discussed the control process being followed while dispersing funds. Ajay Gupta explained that the current process involves his personal approval through a phone call. The board asked Vasant Mapara to follow vigorous control process by cross checking with Ajay Gupta and obtain his approval prior to dispersing funds.
 - Presently, FWBS has two bank accounts: (i) Bhajan Society Account (Vasant Mapara and Haresh Ardeshta having signature authority); and Community Center construction Account (Vasant Mapara and Ajay Gupta having signature authority).
 - The board briefly discussed the needs of implementing an automated accounting system to meet the future needs of the society.
 - Ajay Gupta informed the board that all construction drawings were completed. These drawings were filed with city and county authorities for permitting process. The general expectation is to receive the approvals in about six weeks' time, but Ajay Gupta noted that the approval time ultimately depends on the city and county officials.



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- Ramesh Narang informed the board that he was stepping down. He expressed that he enjoyed the participation in the FWBS' activities, and it was a difficult decision for him at personal level to leave the board. He expressed his continued strong support to FWBS and participating at the events as his schedule permits.
 - Ajay Gupta welcomed Reena Thapa to the board. Reena Thapa expressed her enthusiasm to be part of FWBS.
 - The meeting was adjourned by the President at 3:25PM.

President
Ajay Gupta
ajayvibhagupta@gmail.com

Vice President
Shanmugasundaram Subramanian
sundar.subramanian12@gmail.com

Treasurer
Vasant Mapara
vmaparas@hotmail.com