



Sankat Mochan Samiti Inc

Committed to help the Community

ABN : 17 304 965 150 CAV regn : A0052145E

1289A North Road, Huntingdale, VIC 3166



Minutes of Meeting - AGM dated 25th Jan 2022

Place of meeting : Zoom online & Sankat Mochan Samiti Inc ("SMS") office at 1289a North Road, Huntingdale, VIC 3166.

Meeting start time : 11 AM

Meeting completion : 12.30 PM

Minutes recorded by Shekhar Diptiman, Secretary SMS

- 1) Attendance : Member present physically - 32
Members present by way of proxies - 117
- 2) Quorum check was performed at 11 AM and found successful as per the SMS constitution. Meeting is allowed to proceed.
- 3) Minutes of the last AGM held on 16th Aug 2020 were presented for any comments: No comments and the minutes were proposed by Sardep Singh for approval and seconded by Atul Mithsagar. **The report was approved by the AGM .**
- 4) Financial Report of SMS duly audited by an independent auditor for the FY 2020 and FY 2021 were presented for any comments : A member commented to ask details of the a transaction for FY 2020 . Since there was no handover of financial documents given by the previous committee, the query was parked with limited answer. No other comments were made.
The minutes were proposed by Rahul Nagpal for approval and seconded by Yash Bhatnagar.
Report was accepted by the AGM
- 5) **Management committee's** report on the activities since the last Annual General Meeting held on 16th August 2020. Last few years have been a very difficult period due to COVID-19 situation. This has affected the entire world in various proportions. Melbourne has been no exception. As per the current situation, it is still recording 13000+ cases every day.
 - a) The newly elected committee since 16th August 2020 has been facing a few challenges. The new committee through their own efforts and ingenuity started to overcome as many challenges as possible and streamline the working as per the laid down rules and guidelines.
To start with, the President of the outgoing committee, Mrs Sunila Srivastava and treasurer refused to handover the necessary administrative and financial documents such as invoices and all accounts records for the past 7 years and the access to existing online portals including but not limited to all the Facebook pages , youtube channels . These are statutory requirements and responsibilities of the outgoing committee as per the ATO
In Spite of repeated attempts through various channels, both written and verbal, Mrs. Sunila Srivastava and Mr. Krishan Pandita failed to comply with the handover. Eventually in accordance with the rules of SMS constitution, a Show Cause notice was issued to Sunila Shrivastava citing the following reasons:



Sankat Mochan Samiti Inc

Committed to help the Community

ABN : 17 304 965 150 CAV regn : A0052145E

1289A North Road, Huntingdale , VIC 3166



- Refusal to handover the intellectual property
- Refusal to perform Presidential duties
- Misuse of position as President

A panel of a disciplinary action committee was formed to hear this matter. The decision of the disciplinary committee is still pending.

- Volunteer services of Pandit Rajesh Tiwari were discontinued. The temple committee is grateful to Pandit Hanumant Ji for accepting the request to provide his volunteer services and guidance on spiritual discourse.
 - Rajesh Tiwari lodged a complaint against SMS that he was not paid Super for the last 7 years. We regret to inform the members that **no cooperation was received from the previous committee president and treasurer**. However, the current committee and legal expert on the matters provided adequate response to the ATO to safeguard SMS's image and position.
 - Rajesh Tiwari also posted insulting and defamatory posts on the social media platforms against the association. The SMS committee has initiated a legal action against him .
 - Management Committee Structure** : Due to various reasons, three positions occupied by **Yogen Lakshman, Babu Akula and Ms. Kaustubha respectively became vacant**. All duties and responsibilities of the President were delegated to the Vice President Mrs. Kamini Bhatnagar. She is now the Executive President. Some of these positions were filled through casual appointments. The following is the latest structure of the management committee:
 - President - The position is vacant until further notice. However, the Vice President is assigned role of Executive President with all duties and responsibilities of President until the President is appointed)
 - Vice President – Mrs Kamini Bhatnagar.
 - Secretary - Mr Shekhar Diptiman
 - Executive Treasurer - Mr Anuj Dhingra
 - Ordinary Member - Mr Sardeep Singh
 - Ordinary Member - Ms.Himani Shandilya
- 5) For the major part of the year 2021, Melbourne was in lockdown. SMS with the valuable support and immense hardwork from the dedicated team of volunteers and committee members has managed to keep the temple doors open to the devotees when the restrictions were relaxed. A large number of initiatives and charity work have been successfully carried out by the team as listed below:
- Relaunched a brand new website for the association. Many more online initiatives are continually being done.
 - Blood donation drive. SMS Blood donation team has donated blood equivalent to saving more than 150 lives .
 - Grocery donation campaign. More than 2000 Kg of groceries have been donated in packs to needy families.
 - EFTPOS machines are deployed for receiving donations at the temple.



Sankat Mochan Samiti Inc

Committed to help the Community

ABN : 17 304 965 150 CAV regn : A0052145E

1289A North Road, Huntingdale , VIC 3166



- e. Maha prasad langars were arranged every week on Tuesday/Thursday through valuable support and sponsorship of the devotees. This has now been extended to 4 days during the week namely on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- f. All major festivals like Holi, Diwali, Janmashtami, Maha Shivratri, Hanuman Jayanti, Navratri, Karwa Chauth, Tulsi Vivah, Ganesh Chaturthi, Lohri and Makar Sankranti were conducted and celebrated with great festivity and enthusiasm. Holi was scaled down to a small-scale event due to COVID restrictions. Special mention goes to the successful online booking system that helped devotees to enjoy Karwa Chauth in a hassle-free manner.
- g. All festivals and pujas held at the premises were successfully broadcasted on the social media platforms.
- h. Diwali was celebrated for five days for the first time at Sankat Mochan Temple.
- i. The Hindu New Year was successfully celebrated at the Mulgrave Hall on May '21. There was a splendid display of dance, songs from the different cultures from various states of India. It was appreciated greatly by a large number of people including the Counsel-General of India and local members of Parliament.
- j. SMS opened its gates for festivals of other faiths also. Christmas was celebrated to promote multiculturalism of the association. Community members of Christian, Muslims and Hindus faith appreciated this initiative overwhelmingly.
- k. Large amounts of food and groceries have been distributed to the needy families through "Kitchen soup", "Cornerstone" and "Friends of the Children Foundation"
- l. Temple facelifting was done through general cleanliness and repainting, maintenance, IT upgrade, internet facility of the premises. Use of professional tools in publishing SMS activities in a highly eye-catching manner are appreciated by all corners. We used the technology in publishing the **digital newsletters**. We endeavour to publish the SMS newsletter every quarter of the year going forward.
- m. The temple committee also spared no efforts in organising a large number of marriages and other family functions such as mundan, baby showers and anniversaries on site.
- n. Peace prayer sessions were organised for families who had lost their near and dear ones in India and Australia due to COVID-19. During the Delta outbreak in India, SMS supported many Indian hospitals by making donations of oxygen plants/ concentrators.
- o. New partnerships have been formed with other social organisations such as Uttar Pradesh Association of Australia, Bengali Associations, Tamil Associations, Telugu Association, Friends of the Children Association, Indian Student Association of Victoria, Dawoodi Bohra Committee, Monash Inter-Faith Group etc , in order to boost and strengthen the inter-community culture.
- p. Special coordination has been established with the Indian consulate I to seek their advice and assistance from time to time for the Indian community in distress.
- q. The "Hum Tum – Respectful Relationships" ("HUM TUM") team is proud to have supported and handled a number of domestic violence calls and cases especially



Sankat Mochan Samiti Inc

Committed to help the Community

ABN : 17 304 965 150 CAV regn : A0052145E

1289A North Road, Huntingdale , VIC 3166



during the period of COVID-19. Seven female and one male community members were extended support. HUM TUM was also represented at the Monash Interfaith Group by our lead councillor, Mrs Nirmala Narsimhan at their event “Women of different Faiths”

- r. SMICC update - The Monash council had granted the development permit for the Sankat Mochan Indian Cultural Centre at 4 Margaret Street. Unfortunately, there was a resistance to this approval from some of the neighbours who filed an appeal in VCAT against the development permit. The VCAT case against the planning permit granted by the council SMS committee was defended by the current committee with the help of experts . The decision finally came in favour of the SMICC development.
 - i. The phase -1 of the SMICC development which included the Roof restoration, Fence change and Demolition tasks have been completed
 - ii. The phase 2 planning and assessment tasks have been completed . We are now soon going to finalise the developer/ builder and contractors to carry out the rest of the building work. We hope that the work will start in February. We will keep posting updates on our website
 - s. SMYG - Sankat Mochan Youth Group organised useful workshops such as resume writing workshops and IT training workshops. The youth will be in focus during the coming years in our activities and planning as we need to join more young people to come forward to community services.
 - t. SMSG - A New team was formed to lead the Sankat Mochan Senior Group (SMSG) Informative and entertaining sessions every fortnight for the members of the Sankat Mochan Seniors Group. (Detailed report by SMSG secy, Atul Mithisagar).
- 6) Other business: Mr. Abhijeet Bhide suggested that the meetings should also pay respect to all members who have lost their lives since the last AGM meeting. The management committee will review the suggestion for future meetings.

Meeting closes at 12.30