

BAGH Inc.
GHM Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2006
S. Windsor Community Center, S. Windsor, CT

- Executive Committee and Members
 1. Monosij Mazumdar
 2. Sudip Bhattacharjee
 3. Somnath Deb
 4. Tapas Bandopadhyay
 5. Sudipto Ghosal
 6. Mahua Mukhopadhyaya

- Attendees:
 1. Saumitra Bannerjee
 2. Deepa Chowdhury
 3. Dhipati Chanda
 4. Papia Chanda
 5. Nitish Mukhopadhyaya
 6. Sib Ray
 7. Chinmoy Ghosh
 8. Anil Chatterjee
 9. Arindam Dasgupta
 10. Gautam Maulick
 11. Swapan Mukherjee
 12. Rukmini Mazumdar
 13. Sarbari Bhattacharjee
 14. Susmita Deb

- Minutes
 1. Welcome note by President, Monosij Mazumdar
 2. On behalf of the General Body (GB), Monosij Mazumdar accepted Mahua Mukhopadhyaya's written resignation (submitted via email dated 5/7/06). GB thanked and acknowledged her services.
 3. Tirthankar Chowdury appointed new cultural secretary.
 4. Goutam Maulik selected to, and accepted, position in Executive Committee (EC).
 5. Sudip Bhattacharjee presented financial statement.
 6. Somnath Deb explained financial statement.
 7. Sib Ray proposed to try to recruit members aggressively (suggested a goal of about 100) and use the funds raised to offset fixed costs of BAGH.
 8. Chinmoy Ghosh disagreed, stating membership is the reason for lack of members.
 9. General consensus that membership has certain rights and privileges, and should be open to the general body for a fee, rather than restricting it to a select few by invitation only.
 10. The need to develop better brochure to attract more ads discussed.

11. Saumitra Bannerjee proposed raising baseline donations.
12. Chinmoy Ghosh objects, saying the donation amounts are too high.
13. General consensus was that there should be different levels of donations since some people with deeper commitments to BAGH would provide higher donations than others.
14. Sib Ray suggests alternative venue (church) for Basanta Utsav and Saraswati Puja to reduce costs.
15. Deepa Chowdhury suggests Friday night cooking to be done at home to reduce costs.
16. Dhipati Chandra suggested cooking at home for Sarawati Puja and Durga Puja Sunday meal. Saumitra Bannerjee agrees.
17. Monosij Mazumdar: Cleaning of kitchen to the schools satisfaction costs hundreds of dollars, and should be considered when considering cooking onsite.
18. Suggestion to avoid Fathers Day or Mothers day for Basanta Utsav.
19. Saumitra Bannerjee: States from experience not to expect more than 50 to 60 people for Basanta Utsav. He suggests RSVPing for this event.
20. Sib Ray says that without Basanta Utsav, BAGH becomes a religious organization instead of the social/cultural organization that we are. He suggests having a play instead.
21. Saumitra Bannerjee suggests increasing membership and grandfather old members/give them special recognition. i.e. lifetime membership.
22. Saumitra Bannerjee suggests that each family pays the same fixed amount.
23. Dhipati Chandra said that the coupon system was good and bad. Good because everyone paid but bad because the pricing was set very low. . . so pricing needs to change.
24. Chinmoy Ghosh doesn't agree with membership rules. Feels senior members do not attend the GBM due to the high fees.
25. Monosij Mazumdar accepts recommendation to grant lifetime/emeritus membership to a select few old/senior members (up to 5) as recommended by a council of senior members.
26. Somnath Deb suggested doing away with Basanta Utsav if financially not viable.
27. Gautam Maulick, current Treasurer of Banga Bishwa, shared his experiences . . . They save money during Durga Puja by cooking onsite instead of catering but they pay high venue costs. They also host a free picnic for members.
28. Saumitra Bannerjee wants everyone to know that he is "not mad or angry" about the 2006 Basanta Utsav. He was misunderstood and misinterpreted. He was fine with what was done but just felt that calling it solely BAGH's program was inappropriate. Everyone agreed that a lesson was learned and the best thing is to move on.
29. Swapan Mukherjee in regard to the previous point, suggested in the future, using the term "collaboration" for these types of events.
30. Saumitra Bannerjee says that for the next Basanta Utsav, we should try cooking ourselves to see whether that is a viable option.
31. Chinmoy Ghosh says that current grand patron/patron donation amount is high. Suggests considering an optimum amount for donation.

32. Sib Ray suggests member ID card (application form downloaded from web and fill up at site or on-line . . .). Everybody agreed and motion passes.
33. Saumitra Bannerjee suggests getting new pratima. Maybe having a separate donation and budget for this cause. Also suggests getting separate donations for big-ticket artists.
34. Saumitra Bannerjee praised the EC for their work and dedication and showed full support for the upcoming events.
35. Meeting adjourned after vote of thank by Monosij Mazumdar.