35th Annual GBM 2020-21 Minutes of Meeting

Date: June 26, 2021

Venue: Grand Center. 300 Chisolm Place, Plano TX

Start Time: 10:15 AM

End Time: 6:30 PM

Attendance: approximately 50

Sushil welcomed everyone for the historical Annual GBM 2021. The meeting started on time at 10:15 AM with the required quorum.

Sushil welcomed DFWMM's first-ever BoA members, Ajit Jagtap, Vinayak Agashe & Harish Nehate, for their opening remarks, with the background of the first-ever historical DFWMM Executive Committee Election.

Ajit opened the speech first with the appeal of harmony and keeping the event's decorum for the rest of the day. Following this, Vinayak brought the conflict of interest concerns raised by some members on Atul Chaudhari & Hemant Kulkarni. Vinayak informed that Atul volunteered to recuse himself from the BoA during the election process as his spouse was nominated for the Executive Committee 2021-2022 position of Co-Treasurer, which is a conflict-of-interest.

Vinayak further brought up the topic of Hemant Kulkarni's conflict of interest. BoA received calls and emails from Shree Gangal, Rashmi Sathe & Neeta Joshi, raising

concerns over Hemant's nomination for the position of Secretary, establishing conflict interest as Hemant owns a restaurant and is a Gold Sponsor for DFWMM.

However, Hemant had already discontinued Gold Sponsorship and provided a written commitment that his restaurant will not take any food orders from DFWMM during the Mandal calendar year if elected to the position. Hence, it was concluded by BoA that his nomination could proceed.

Vinayak then discussed in detail other concerns raised by Sujit on voter eligibility. He explained that the current constitution does not have a provision to restrict someone from becoming a member, and therefore all active members can vote. However, BoA agreed to stop membership one week before the election date, which also helps the treasury finalize the balance sheet and send financial details to the CPA.

Sushil resumed the AGM and opened it with a video covering a recap of Mandal activities for the year 2020-2021. Sushil then called the committee members on the stage and introduced them to the meeting. Sushil thanked the team, and everyone applauded, recognizing their efforts.

Sushil then continued the presentation on

1. Programs
    1. Mandal delivered 27 programs in a very challenging COVID situation for the 2020-2021 Calendar Year.
        1. Sixteen entertainment programs
        2. Ten cultural programs

3. NTFB food drive and financial donation under Sahayog Chapter

2. Membership
    1. Membership increased this year as many joined after the annual picnic (last program of the year) to participate in the elections.
    2. Mandal offered 50% programs FREE to members.
3. Financial data
    1. Financial Summary of 2020-2021
    2. Revenue and Expense Chart
    3. Donations under Sahayog
4. Updates about BOA elections
    1. BoA elections were held.
        1. Eight applications were received (Ajit Jagtap, Harshad Khadilkar, Mandar Wadekar, Pulkeshi Jape, Saurabh Kshirsagar, Harish Nehate, Atul Chaudhari & Vinayak Agashe.
        2. Five nominees contested (Ajit Jagtap, Harshad Khadilkar, Mandar Wadekar, Atul Chaudhari & Vinayak Agashe)
        3. Two nominees withdrew (Pulkeshi Jape, Saurabh Kshirsagar) due to five-year membership requirement
        4. One nominee withdrew (Harish Nehate) due to sponsor termed as conflict-of-interest

Following this DFWMM's Both Marathi shala presented annual activities and address by Shala Representative

- Plano Shala - Mandar Gandhe

- Maiboli Irving Shala- Vaishnavi Apte, Manik Khedekar, Amruta Inamdar.

Sushil then opened the floor for Questions and Answers at 10:51 AM.

- Abhijeet Railkar brought attention to continue working on the Constitution's revision as discussed in 2020 GBM. And now there is more need considering elections and other activities.
- Minesh Patil – brought the following points.
  - Who is paying for the election expenses? According to him, ideally, the candidates should pay for election expenses.
  - He said that conflict of interest for Mandal office bearing Business owners was not an issue in the past.
  - Have we done any background checks of all the candidates contesting these elections?
  - If there are any lawsuits on the Mandal, will the candidates on H1B visa defend the Mandal in court?
- After this, multiple respected mandal members raised their concerns and voices over the details on financial numbers specifically.
- Rashmi Sathe –
  - Whether we donated to any political organization, Sushil answered no.
  - How many people attended the programs this year. Sushil gave the numbers for the top 3 programs. Hasgat – 166, Shivsohala - 105, Lapandav – 102. Point to note, for any online entertainment program; there was one ticket per family, so on average, 3 to 4 people watched the show in one ticket.

- Why the "other programs" expenses were so high (around 6K). Sushil explained that it included about 16 programs under that category, and few programs were given free to members.
- There were more questions on other expenses, so Sushil called Vaishali Patil, and she gave some more details about the expenses involved in the "other expenses" category.
- Saee Kulkarni insisted on providing details on all financial transactions and continuing the meeting till all financial questions are answered.
- Rashmi Thopte – Also requested details on numbers.
- Anup Shahapurkar – Requested details to be discussed in the meeting.
- Sushil shared that the consolidated numbers will be published on the Mandal portal for all active members.

However, the disagreements about other expenses line item and overall financial review reached a tipping point and with the high pitch voices, At that point, Sushil made an attempt to close the meeting as the designated time for the meeting was over, so he called the security person to maintain the decorum of meeting and get the meeting concluded. While this containment was in process, Shree Gangal aggressively charged towards the stage, making heated arguments to protest against calling security. Security officers came and requested for lowering voices to all highly charged members. At this point, Sushil attempted to calm the situation and asked the security person to step back.

Mr. Subhash Gaitonde intervened to settle down this situation. He appealed to people to cool down. He expressed his disappointment for people asking too many questions about the expenses and asked people if they think anyone working on the committee

will commit fraud. Also, he asked Sushil to apologize for calling security, and Sushil promptly said sorry to everyone for the unintentional mistake.

Amit Shrungarpure Patil and Chaitanya Joshi brought the issue about mandal asking rights for their amateurs Natak in return for the theater fees which mandal was planning to pay. Sushil clarified that Mandal asked only for shared rights and not exclusive rights to defend the Mandal from any questions/concerns arising from publishing the Mandal Social Media Platform content.

After that, the meeting was adjourned by Sushil. However, Sujit Sathe reminded Sushil that was supposed to have the Nominee speeches at this time. But most of the people had already left the hall, so Sushil played the official campaign video of all the candidates on the LED Screen.

The Elections for the Executive Committee for the year 2021-2022 were held for the first time in the 35 year history of the DFWMM. The environment was electrified with lot of new energy. In-person paper ballots were used for the voting process, and 330 members exercised their votes.

Volunteers Neeta Jangade, Anagha Gokhale, Rahul Karnik, Padma Joshi, Rashmi Sathe, Salil Joshi, Priya Dravekar, Saee Kulkarni, and other members managed the registration desk where the membership was validated and voting token was given one per membership (family/individual). Only one member from the family was given the token and the name was noted in the list to avoid giving second token to the other family member. Voting booth was in the separate auditorium where BoA Ajit, Vinayak

along with volunteers Amit Arkatkar, Sachin Deshpande, Ritesh Joshi, Anagha Gokhale, and other members managed the voting booths effectively. They exchanged the voting token with ballot paper which the members marked with pencils by filling out the ovals and dropped the vote into the ballot box.

At 4:00 PM the registration desk was closed and counting of the votes started in the main auditorium.

Before the counting started, Manoj and Sujit were invited on the stage by BoA and they agreed to the selection of Harshad, Padma, and Rahul as vote counters. Both Manoj and Sujit agreed and invited Ritesh Joshi and Sachin Deshpande as observers. The counting process included, one BoA member taking votes out from the ballot box and handing over to observers which passed it to the BoA member who announced the vote. Counters simultaneously kept the count and at regular intervals tallied the count. The counting process lasted more that two hours initially in the main auditorium and later on in the smaller auditorium. When all votes were counted, final tally was done by BoA and vote counters.

Ajit called all nominees near the stage and requested everyone to refrain from any celebratory or victorious behavior when the results are announced. Sushil requested Mr. Dilip Patankar, one of the founder member of the DFWMM and Mr. Milind Pandit on the stage. Ajit requested Mr. Dilip Patankar to announce the results. Mr. Patankar announced the results and congratulated the winners as well as consoled those who lost the election.

Results of the election are as follows:

Position	Name	Vote Count	Name	Vote Count
President	Manoj Pagnis	148	Sujit Sathe	178
Secretary	Hemant Kulkarni	133	Satish Thopte	193
Treasurer	Anup Shahapurkar	184	Vaishali Patil	142
Co-Treasurer	Amit Buche	141	Vaidehi Choudhary	184
Webmaster	Nishank Save	141	Shamli Asanare	186

A group picture of all volunteers, nominees, seniors, and BoA was taken to conclude the event.

BoA along with the help from many volunteers took great efforts and conducted a free and fair election. Our constitution and bylaws need considerable updates to incorporate the detail processes to conduct elections at this scale.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM