Dallas-Fort Worth Maharashtra Mandal
डॅलस-फोर्टवर्थ महाराष्ट्र मंडळ
2023-24
President – Anup Shahapurkar |Secretary – Shamli Asanare |Treasurer – Yudhishthir Joshi
Co-Treasurer –Shrirang Golhar |Webmaster – Raj Jangade
https://www.dfwmm.org
3412 Canyon Lake Dr, Little Elm 75068 M: +1316.559.4411

38th Annual General Body Meeting – Minutes of Meeting
Venue: Collin College Conference Center
9700, Wade Blvd, Frisco, TX 75035
Date and Time: Saturday, 20th July 2024, 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

- At 6:30 PM President Anup Shahapurkar called to start the 38th General Body Meeting of Dallas Fort Worth Maharashtra Mandal. At the beginning of the meeting, a roll call is taken by the secretary. 73 members were present at 6:30 PM. As the quorum of 50 was met, the proceedings of GBM started immediately.
- President, Anup Shahapurkar welcomed all the members to the 38th GBM and walked through the agenda of the meeting. He also informed that GBM is the last program of 2023-24 mandal year.
- Anup informed that this year the total membership has reached 1130 members. All the members applauded these statistics. Anup thanked the EC for their support and help throughout the year.
- Anup informed the members that this year we had 14 sponsors and thanked all the sponsors for their help and support.
- Anup then walked the members through last year's roadmap of events and shared the program highlights. Here are the details shared by Anup -
    - The year started with Swatantryaveer Savarkar program. We are proud that DFWMM was the 1st mandal to have program on Swatantryaveer Savarkar.
    - The next program was Independence Day celebration and 600 + attended the event.
    - The Manglagaur program was new and introduced for the 1st time.
    - For the Ganapati program – mandal tried something different this time. We arranged Father-daughter cooking competition, slow cycling etc. Also, this event had many challenges including venue etc. Due to these challenges, we had to do Natak (Niyam va Ati Lagu) on a weekday and had to decide on a separate program for the main Ganapati event, but BMM pitched in and helped in arranging Niche Entertainment program on the main event day.
    - For Diwali Pahaat we produced Nakshatrache dene program like we have seen on TV channels in India.
    - In November, the mandal arranged Ramdas Padhye puppet show and Halloween party specially for kids.
    - There were no programs in December but we Had Mid-year GBM.
    - The new year started with the Sankrant program. This program had challenges of weather and still we had 40+ performances and 800+ people attended this program.
    - For Shivjayanti, this year as well, we were able to celebrate it on a grand scale. The Maha-natya had 140+ characters and in 2-3 weeks' time, the whole show was directed, practiced and performed. Around 1200 members attended this program. We appealed for donation for Shivjayanti and implemented hybrid model based on previous feedback.
    - For Natyachhand this year, we had 6 ekankika plus Mandar Bhide program. We are happy to note that other Mandals are also inspired based on events organized in Dallas and started Natyachhand. This is a great achievement.
    - BMM has an initiative – Reshim gathi for the young boys and girls interested in match making. We Supported this initiative in March and received feedback from BMM that this was the most successful event by BMM. The event was very well appreciated.
    - In March 2024, we also had Manaswini event on International Women's Day. The event had Sip and Paint activity and was a good success.

- From past 3 years, we are organizing Kridamahotsav. The objective is participation of all. This year the challenge was again weather, so only 70% of the program could take place. Hats off to community members who helped and supported the event even during the inclement weather.
- For the Camping, based on our mandal's "community before self" belief, we opened Electric tent for other members. The execution and planning were amazing for this event.
- In June, we hosted a Seniors program. It was a short but good program.
- In July, we hosted Sankarshan via Spruha
- And today before this GBM, we just concluded Felicitation and scholarship event.

- After the program highlights, Anup provided updates for different initiatives throughout the year. He called upon individual initiative leads to provide the update.
  - For Manaswini, Shamli provided the updates:
    - Manaswini initiative has been running for the last 2 years.
    - Professional and career counseling continued
    - This year we introduced the Book club and received good feedback from the community.
    - Organized Vastu katta which received good response.
    - Also, a session on Ayurved was conducted.
  - Anup opined that the change inevitable in leadership, but Manaswini done well under the new leadership.
  - Anup updated about the health and wellness initiative and applauded efforts by the doctors in the community.
  - Shrirang and Leena provided updates for Youth Outreach initiative.
    - We did a drive for back-to-School supply for CFBISD and NTFB food bank donations.
    - We hope to continue the donations for NTFB and Back to school drive this year as well.
    - During the Dandiya event, youth sold the dandiya and the money collected from the same was donated to NTFB.
    - During KridaMahotsav also the youth outreach team collected donations.
  - Shamli updated on College Buddy initiative.
    - It was a bit dormant this year.
    - We had 2-3 tutoring session. These were the guiding sessions for 9th and 10th kids by seniors.
    - We encourage participation of both students and tutors to keep this initiative going.
  - Anup updated about the Scholarship Committee.
    - He informed all that the scholarship program is Satish and Subhash kaka's idea.
    - This year we added innovation as a new category
    - Mandal gave USD 20,200 in scholarship this year.
- Anup updated about the Marathi movies we screened in last year. There were 2 models used – we own the screening, and the other is the 3rd party model. We showcased 5 movies last year.
- Anup informed all members that we organized katta on various topics. We had the katta on following topics –
  - Vastu for balance
  - Ram mandir event in Frisco conducted by Sachin and Shubhada Deshpande.
  - We also partnered with Hindu temple for their celebration of Ram Mandir.
  - Snehvan katta for interview with Ashok Deshmane. He provided good information, and it is a great organization doing grassroots work.
- Mandal not only organized cultural programs, but social programs as well. This year Health and wellness team organized the first ever blood donation drive explicitly for the mandal members during the Shivjayanti event.
- The next update was on co-powered events.
  - We co-powered 2 varied format events in Sept 23 - Perfect Murder and Vasantotsav.
  - In April 2024, we co-powered play Charchoughi and it was on same day as Kridamahotsav. But we were able to support both – play as well as Kridamahotsav.
  - In July 2024, we co-powered Ajay-Atul live show.
- Anup next updated the members about the website. He informed the members that we upgraded the website last year, but it still had some issues.
- Anup then invited Raj, the Webmaster for the 2023-24 year to provide updates.

- Raj started with a question - what is a webmaster? And then explained the work done by the web master throughout the year. He informed the members that
    - We have 3000 + users.
    - Web master responsibility includes social media, FB, Insta.
    - There are 25 accounts for direct communication.
    - Down time is not acceptable. We had 100% uptime this year
    - Auto updating website, auto expiration of roles is achieved this year.
    - Sponsor slide will now roll and show for each sponsor.
- Raj also stated that EC, all of us did good work. Like storage cleanup, event management, etc. He also welcomed the new Committee and wished them the best.
- All the members applauded the efforts of the web master and web team throughout the year.
- Anup added that for the website, the big issue was role expiration. So, Raj had to manually expire the roles for the 1st few months. Only after Ganapati event last year, it was working in auto mode. Anup thanked Raj for his manual efforts of updating each role manually.
- After this Anup asked the Marathi shala coordinators to provide yearly updates about the shala activities.
    - For Miboli shala Shamli, Swati and Rahul provided the updates.
        - Rahul shared that we have received good feedback from parents. 180 students are registered this year with shala. We arranged for parents-teachers to meet and greet, Killa as well as different spardha. Shala had an annual trip and 400+ people joined for this picnic.
        - He also informed all that this year we have plans to do more activities. As Mandal grows, Shala and events are also growing.
        - Swati also added that this is the 10th year of Shala.
    - For Plano Marathi Shala, Varshada provided updates.
        - Varshada updated that Plano shala has a contract with Alpha Montessori to conduct in person classes.
        - Shala had 2 big events and one of them was Diwali. The students made Aakash kandil during this event.
        - Shala followed hybrid model this year – on zoom and in person classes
        - 175 kids enrolled in exam this year and oral + written exams were taken on the same day.
        - The pre-covid strength of shala was around 90 students, and this year till the GBM 175 students were enrolled, and by next week, the count will be 200.
        - We have opened a wait list for those who could not be admitted due to limited capacity, and we already have 111 students on the waitlist.
    - Kanchan Kulkarni recognized Varshada, Ajay and Rasika for their tireless work for Shala.
    - All the shala teachers and volunteers received applause from the members present at the GBM.
    - Anup concluded the shala updates with a hope that both shala will grow to new heights in coming years.
- Anup invited BOT to provide the BOT updates. Pulkeshi Jape from the BOT presented the updates.
    - Pulkeshi Jape stated that for the DFWMM investment options we have not received any volunteer nominations and we are yet we can set up a taskforce to evaluate.
    - BOT has invited applicants for this task force and waiting for them to respond by 5th August 2024.
    - If no applicants respond by this deadline, then the BOT will form the task force after 5th August 2024.
    - The taskforce will research to see if there are any options better than CDs and present options in Mid-year GBM.
    - BOT provided an improvement observation. BOT recommended a formal connection on Quarterly basis between BOT and EC.
- Satish Thopte suggested that for the next BOT, it will be good if we can implement the improvement observation and EC and BOT can exchange suggestions.
- Ajit Jagtap suggested inviting talented people in our community to form the task force for doing research on the option for investing the DFWMM money.
- After the BOT updates, Anup announced that BMM has awarded regional melawa to DFWMM. This is a testament to DFWMMs Stature. This will be a 1-1.5-day program. The idea is to have a program together with other Mandals and BMM might help with 1 program from India.

- Anup also announced that Sachin Deshpande is our BMM representative. He is involved in many initiatives. DFWMM has proposed a change in BMM voting structure for new weight-based votes count depending on Mandal head count. With that, Anup called upon Sachin on stage to say a few words.
- Sachin briefly explained the proposal put for BMM. He said that DFWMM should get respect from others and the proposal is to have votes based on membership count at the batch of 250 members. The proposal suggests 3 votes for 250 members and an increase of 1 vote for every 250 additional members.
- Many members supported this proposal.
- With this update, Anup handed it over to Yudhishthir Joshi and Shrirang Golhar for the financial updates.
- Yudhishthir started by appreciating people who give their support to mandal throughout the year like giving their garage for set preparation, etc. and then displayed the balance sheet. Below are the points discussed during the financial review.
    - Mandal ended the year with a surplus of USD 2000 in balance compared to the beginning of year. Everyone applauded this news.
    - The total program revenue for the whole year was 250K and overall expenses were 309K
    - Yudhishthir also provided trend of last year vs this year on key expenses and revenue.
    - Anup added that we are always a non-profit organization, and our goal is to break even.
    - Pulkeshi asked what was interest received from CD?
    - Shrirang replied to Pulkeshi that it was around 8000 and the PayPal expense was offset with the interest from CD.
- Yudhishthir then walked through the excel sheet for expenses going by each event and explained the detail revenue and expense for each event. He highlighted below points during his walkthrough:
    - We kept reasonable tickets but were still able to balance the revenue and expense.
    - Diwali was a free event for all members.
    - Shivjayanti was also provided as a free event to all members.
- Yudhishthir then provided details of expenses other than events
    - Capital Expense: Sound equipment 1 time expense distribute over years; we can get full expense paid in 3 years.
    - The benefit of this capital investment was evident as this year no artist complained about the sound quality and all were happy with the existing AV equipment.
    - We tried Tugoz as a payment gateway, but it's more expensive than PayPal.
- Questions and answers on financial expenses:
    - Sujit Sathe asked: "Other than free program, what events had substantial loss and was this expected? E.g. Bolkya bahulya."
    - Yudhishthir answered: "It was anticipated. We thought about how we can optimize. And to answer that, we look at next 3-4 events to recoup this loss."
    - Shrirang added that "From expense standpoint, last year Natyachhand was in School, and that venue was cheaper. This year it was held in Grand Center. So, the venue was expensive. Rent is always the most expensive. The 2nd largest expense is artists payments and the 3rd largest is props."
    - Anup explained the challenge we faced during the Ganapati event. "For venue and program, we had twice expense as there were 2 programs and 2 different venues. He also added that we took best decision at the time."
    - Kanchan Kulkarni asked: "For Swatyantryaveer Savarkar program, did the mandal receive matching donation from the corporate?".
    - Yudhishthir replied: "Yes. We received the matching donation, and it is counted in the next event."
    - Rahul Padalikar asked: "You say some losses are expected, do EC and BOT discuss about the losses?"
    - Yudhishthir replied: "At start of year, EC and BOT do meet to discuss budget."
    - Satish Thopte added: "EC and BOT meet, they consider inflation, etc. It's an overall annual budget and it is not per program. We don't have to have each program go in profit. We can always depend on Sponsorship and Annual membership fees to cover expenses."
    - Anup suggested to focus on the big picture and not look at each event for profit and loss. Look at the beginning of the year and end of the year total.
    - Rahul Padalikar suggested: "As we go ahead with our programs throughout the year and if we understand that expense is more than the budget, beyond a certain limit, BOT should be aware of that difference and EC and BOT need to discuss on the change in budget."
    - Satish Thopte added: "This is a good point, and it can be taken as process improvement."

- Satish also suggested that the USD 8000 check for plano shala rent need to be shown separately.
- Atul Choudhary suggested that: "we are doing simple accounting. We were not doing Accrual accounting. Accrual accounting good idea can implement it in next Committee. Put foot note on any expenses accrued last year."
- Atul also asked: "Are we accounting for Depreciated assets?"
- Ajit Jagtap suggested that we do not need complexity and can consult CPA on how to keep the accounting simple but still effective.
- Sachin Kurmude opined that "People focus on how cash is obtained and how cash is spent."
- Yudhishthir responded that Quick books could be used for accounting. We have membership and we could use it.
- Satish Thopte suggested integrating Quick books with PayPal.
- Rahul Padalikar further asked: "Do we work on event Budget?"
- Yudhishthir replied: "We start with a budget with BOT. But we don't have event by event budget, we have annual Budget."
- Anup concluded the topic by stating "It's operational issue of EC, if many events are in loss, we talk to BOT but for each program it is not needed as it is Operational."

- Ajit Jagtap brought the point about fee events. He said that our concept was to attract members when the count was less. Is it needed now that needs to be evaluated.
- Yudhishthir informed that for Shivjayanti, we asked USD 5 voluntary donation, and we earned USD 2000 this way.
- Ajit Jagtap said "We don't intend to have big profit. But the program should not go in big loss by giving it free."
- Barin Kulkarni made a point that we do Shivjayanti on a grand scale now, it is worth asking if we shall ticket this event.
- Shrirang Golhar mentioned that this is good feedback, but it was decision by EC to provide this event as free. Shivjyanti and Diwali are event very near to our members' heart.
- Ajit further stated that people like these events free, but EC needs to draw a line somewhere with due diligence.
- Satish Thopte added that there was feedback from the members and many people wanted refund. Let that be decision by EC.
- Yudhishthir provided treasury highlights while concluding financial overview:
  - We have had a growing membership for last 3 years.
  - For our events renting school premises is beneficial and cheaper. If we rent private event centers, then they are costly.
  - A snapshot of the balance sheet for the mandal year 2023-24 is shared below.

  - The detail balance sheet is available on Mandal's SharePoint and can be accessed by scanning the above QR code or by clicking here.
- Anup thanked Yudhishthir and Shrirang for their work throughout the year. All the members responded with applause.
- Anup moved to the next agenda items and informed the members that there are 3 proposals to be tabled in this GBM. All the 3 proposals can be found at Mandal SharePoint by clicking here.
- The first proposal was tabled by Santosh Deshmukh.
  - Santosh proposed to change the mandal fiscal year from 1st July-30th June to 1st August-31st July. He stated that in June, July many members go to India. For various reasons for the last two years the GBM could not be held before 30th June then why not change the fiscal year. But he also mentioned that there are other points like Shala year which will be impacted due to this. Sighting these other points he proposed to amend this proposal.
  - Amendment suggested: End fiscal year mandatorily in June every year.
  - Ajit Jagtap said that it is already in constitution to end the year by June end.
  - Rahul Padalikar suggested: "We must make it more difficult to extend."
  - Santosh said that for the past 2 years, we had to extend the tenure by a month. To Rahul's point – yes, it is easy to extend. So, Amendment is making it difficult or impossible to do so.
  - Rahul said: "Constitution says the GBM can be postponed by mutual agreement between EC and BOT for unavoidable reasons. Everyone needs to know what the unavoidable reasons for past two years are."
  - Saee Kulkarni suggested: "We need to have list of unavoidable reasons."

- Barin Kulkarni opined that moving fiscal year is not a solution. In future, we can similarly argue to move GBM from July to August. This will never end.
- Anup asked the quorum: "Do we need this proposal?"
- Before any voting on this question, Santosh backed out the proposal in totality.
- Ajit Jagtap said: "If you want to propose, propose to follow the constitution hard and fast."
- Santosh confirmed that the proposal parked for now.

- The second proposal was also tabled by Santosh Deshmukh about the co-powered program engagement
  - The proposal was to make the co-powered agreement formal and make it available on the website.
  - Ajit Jagtap asked: "Has BOT vetted this? Do we want engagement with private organizers? If Mandal and members don't see benefit, then there is no need to go forward. I Would like BOT to present this proposal."
  - Shree Asanare suggested that high level guidelines need to be established.
  - Anup said agreeing to co-powered terms and condition should be EC decision.
  - Anup proposed to split the proposal in two parts and take separate vote on each part.
  - The proposal was split into 2 parts
    - A: co-powered contract should be available on the website
    - B: Accept the terms and conditions outlined by Santosh in the proposal as is.
  - For part A the vote of all members was taken
  - Part A of the proposal was passed with 48 votes in favor of the proposal and 0 votes against. Remaining members abstained from voting.
  - For part B the vote of all members was taken.
  - Part B of the proposal was passed with 40 votes in favor of the proposal and 8 votes against. Remaining members abstained from voting.
- The third proposal was tabled by Shriniwas Asanare.
  - He proposed to create a team of people with different expertise (like construction, political outreach etc.) to evaluate possibility of facility setup using DFWMM funds.
  - Ajit raised the question about how we are going to operate the facility?
  - Sujit commented that is this committee even needed? We can already do this with the current EC and BOT.
  - Shree replied that we had EC and BOT for last 2-3 years, but they have not done it, so we need a specific committee with deadline.
  - Ajit suggested that if this committee is formed, it must report to BOT.
  - The proposal was put for voting. 47 members voted in favor of the proposal and 2 members against it. Remaining members were abstained from voting.
- Anup asked the permission of all members to extend the GBM by 30 minutes as there was some business remaining to be completed. All the members unanimously agreed to extend the GBM by 30 minutes.
- During the GBM, all attendees gave a round of applause to the current committee for their tireless work throughout the year.
- Anup then called upon BOT to make the new executive committee and BOT announcements.
- Satish announced that since there was one nomination for each of the five executive committee positions, no election was necessary.
- Saee Kulkarni welcomes Shamli as the next president and introduced new executive committee for year 2024-25:
  - President: Shamli Asanare
  - Secretary: Rahul Padalikar
  - Treasurer: Santosh Deshmukh
  - Co-treasurer: Rashmi Thopte
  - Webmaster: Sachin Funde
- Shamli thanked all the members for showing trust in her and assured all to provide a year that will take mandal to new heights and provide joy to all the members.
- Pulkeshi announced that from BOT, Saee Kulkarni and Satish Thopte would be stepping down from the BoT. Dilip Rane was elected unopposed as the BOT member for 3-year term and Shamli will join BOT as current mandal president, with Anup continuing as outgoing president.
- All the members congratulated the new executive committee.
- Anup announced that the agenda for the GBM is complete and the GBM is over.

Action items from the meeting:

Sl No	Action	Owner
1	BOT to form the task force for investment options if no responses received from the invited applicants after 5th August 2024	BOT
2	EC will prepare a draft for co-power agreements template and review it with BOT	EC
3	Create a team of specialized people from community to evaluate possibility of facility setup for the mandal	BOT

----------end of minutes----------