



Foundation Board Meeting – Minutes Monday, Dec. 7, 2014

Date: Monday, Dec. 8, 2014 6.30 PM
Location: 895 Edgewater Drive, Lexington, KY, 40502
Attending: Nima Desai, D. Sudharshan & M. S. Viji
Invited: Seetha Subramanian, Suvas Desai & Vinodh Venugopal
Excused: Sibuh Saha & Usha Chandra (Proxy authorization given by both to Dr M S Viji)

1. Chair Dr. Nima Desai called the Board meeting to order by 6.30 PM. With adequate quorum, (3 present and 2 by proxy) the meeting was started.
2. Minutes of the last Board Meeting held on Dec. 21, 2013 were reviewed and accepted unanimously as presented without any changes.
3. The unusual and hectic schedules of the Board members during 2014 made it difficult to meet in person. The President kept the Board members apprised regularly of all the projects, their progress and the related activities. The Board shall plan regular meetings from 2015 onwards. Start at 2.00 PM
Scheduled Dates: (i) Sat. Apr. 18, 2015 (ii) Sat. Aug. 22, 2015 (iii) Sat. Dec. 12, 2015
4. Financial status Update was presented by the President and reviewed in detail.
 - (i) **Income-Expense for 2014.** The 2014 data presented on total donations (funds & in kind) were reviewed and approved. After the 501 –C-3 approval, there is a significant increase in donations from many parts of the US. The overall cost to dispatch school supplies to Kenya was high. The Board advised sending funds to the local coordinators in East Africa for local purchase of school supplies.
 - (ii) **Project based Budget:** The Foundation is now joining hands with major non-profit entities for collaboration at many levels on projects with far reaching effects, stretching over many years. The estimates shown are per project over multi-year duration. Until each year is over, not easy to project how much of the project would be completed – as this is mainly dependent on our collaborating partners. In most projects, the Foundation is sought out by our collaborating entities as we bring immense value as Technology Partners, contributing substantially in kind. Along with that, we enhance the efforts of our partners by raising books, funds, etc. whatever will promote in achieving our common objective to empower the poor.
 - (iii) **Board Recommendation:** To prepare an annual estimate how much of the budget the Foundation shall raise each year and provide mid-year financial review on each project.
 - (iv) **Donors Directory:** After the IRC 501-C-3 approval, many donors are contributing regularly and the Foundation is very much indebted to their support and generosity. This important database shall be maintained for future reference and provide periodic feedback to the generous donors. Per regulatory statutes that covers non-profits, the Foundation shall protect the Privacy and Confidentiality of the Donors. This information shall be kept fully confidential and not made a part of the public records.



5. **Registration Update:** Registration with independent Non-Profit registration bodies (mandated to secure grants from certain charitable entities) was presented to the Board. Will register with others as well.
- (i) 'Gold Participant' Approval by **Guide Star** – a 501 C3 rating agency
 - (ii) Kroger Community Rewards Program
 - (iii) Amazon Smile Foundation
6. **Active Missions & Projects Update:** The President gave update on the various (i) ongoing (ii) completed and (iii) upcoming projects. Many letters of appreciation as well as media recognition were shared with the Board.
- a) IGNITING MINDS Mission** – progress
- (i) Virtual Smart Classrooms – 27 operational now reaching > 35,000 poor children
 - ❖ Free Public Libraries in India – update 4 x 40' FCL & > 500 Rotary Clubs - > 160 FPL open now.
 - ❖ Helping Children in Kenya & Tanzania – with school renovation and school supplies.
 - ❖ Visiting Scholars from USA to India – being very well received and will be continued.
 - ❖ Collaboration with the 3,000 + Rotary Clubs in India for TOTAL LITERACY and TEACH Program in line with the IGNITING MINDS Mission of the Foundation. Several Rotary Clubs in India are keen to join hands with the Foundation. A copy of the Foundation Proposal to the Rotary Clubs was presented to the Board.
- b) SOLAR RAMESWARAM Mission**
- ✓ Solar Lamps to fishing boats – Donation now up to 80 boats
 - ✓ > 450 huts now with solar lights and solar power – BrahMos collaboration. Press coverage was presented.
 - ✓ 2 Public Hospitals – Solar water heaters have been implemented in Rameswaram.
 - ✓ 22 Schools solar lighting - Rotary Dist 6740 & 3212 partnership – hoping this project will be implemented within the 2015-2016 time frame and if funds are available, extended to the rest of India.
 - ✓ Pamban Bridge Wind / Solar Power Supply being designed – will update the progress as it evolves.
- c) EMPOWER AFRICA - East Africa** – active participation of local volunteers and citizens.
- a) Rural Schools renovation continuing – so far \$ 2,000 has been donated. More funds are needed.
 - b) School supplies - 5 boxes (value \$ 500) sent & received in tact by the rural school principal.
- d) Uttarakhand Employment Training Project:**
- Collaboration with Uttarakhand Mandal of America (UMA) & FICE in India. If UMA approves the grant (\$ 100,000) will be taken up in collaboration with FICE (local on-the-ground non-profit in India).
7. With no further items for discussion, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7.35 PM.

Prepared by:

M S Viji
M S Viji, MD
President

Accepted and approved as presented () with changes

Nirmala S. Desai
Dr. Nirmala Desai
Chair, Board of Directors

Date: 5/10/15