

# **Minutes of Meeting**

## **NASKA General Body Meeting**

**Date:** June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Venue:** IKEA New Haven Cafeteria

**Attendees:** Nirupam Basu, Sanjit Sanyal, Kaushik Mitra, Tarun Choudhury, Samir Poddar, Animesh Chandra, Girija Bhunia, Prabir Patra, Suman De, Soumitra Mukherjee, Satya Sau, Sanchita Maitra, Subhasis Ganguly, Raj Basak

**Agenda:**

1. Select Chairperson to conduct the meeting.
2. Action Plan for community events to make NASKA more visible in the Community.
3. Adjournment.

**Minutes:**

Subhasis Ganguly was selected as the Chair Person to conduct the meeting

Topics discussed:

1. Introduction of Durga Puja by NASKA
2. Other community activities and fund raising events

**1. Introduction of Durga Puja:**

- a. Vote for and against introduction of Durga Puja: All feedbacks received were in favor of introducing the Durga Puja celebration under NASKA banner. There was no response opposing this proposal. Hence it is concluded that a unanimous decision was made to introduce the Durga Puja.
- b. Feedback from the attendees on key differentiators of the Durga Puja:
  - i. Solemnity of the puja celebration.
  - ii. Involvement and increased participation of the greater community in Connecticut and neighboring states
  - iii. Quality bhog, dinner and snacks
  - iv. Continue to build on the established NASKA standards to deliver a holistic event that meets expectations of every segment of the community
- c. Governance: A question was raised on whether NASKA should introduce a membership plan to ensure a committed participation. NASKA EC members advised to continue with the current "open door for all policy" with voluntary sponsorship and donations as opposed to member based participation.

- d. Budget: Tarun Choudhury and Sanjit Sanyal prepared a draft budget that was presented to all attendees. Sanchita Maitra shared the expense report of a 2015 Durga Puja run by another community as a benchmark to validate the estimations.
- e. Action items: NASKA EC will reconvene in near future (tentatively after Kalipuja 2016) to continue this discussion with a detailed budget and logistics planning.

**2. Other community activities and fund raising events:**

- a. Cultural events: A proposal was received to host a cultural event presenting a renowned national-level vocal artist to attract audience from New England Area. This will be a fund raiser event to support future NASKA initiatives and also create public awareness. EC requested a detailed proposal with feasibility assessment. Adjourned for next general body meeting.
- b. Community Outreach: Various proposals were received for community activities like “Blood Donation Camp”, “Children’s Quiz Contest” and “hosting a Bongo Mela”. Due to compliance issues the group decided not to proceed with blood donation camp. Feedback from EC was to continue enhancing the Children’s quiz contest which is already organized by NASKA with more creative topics and campaign for larger participation. Due to time constraints the attendees could not go through the details of Bongo Mela proposal. This topic was adjourned for next general body meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Durga Puja budget & logistic review - NASKA EC meeting (date TBD)

New England cultural event for fund raising – NASKA general body meeting (date TBD)

Bongo Mela - NASKA general body meeting (date TBD)

Thanking you

NASKA EC