

BAC Town Hall Meeting – August 14, 2011

Place: Moharaja Restaurant

**Minutes & Highlights of the August 14, 2011 Town Hall Meeting:**

See attached file for the attendees.

- Meeting started around 4:15pm
- Mr. Arun Roy, Chairperson of the Board has started the meeting with an opening remark and a minute of silence was observed for the internationally acclaimed film producer Tareq Masud, ATN Bangla CEO Mishuk Munier and three other individuals killed in a tragic road accident in Bangladesh. He also requested to pray , Shah Abdul Wahab Khan and pray for Faizur Khan's father illness.
- BAC, BACOS and fund raising updates were given by the Chairperson Mr. Arun Roy.
- Mr. Hasan Rahman, BAC Center Director welcomed the attendees and the officers. Given an overview of a power point presentation (attached) regarding the up-to- date BAC Financial and other relevant data available for the members on to the BAC website <http://bachouston.org/>.
- The presentation provided the **proposed** changes (attached) to restructure the BAC organizational structure as per the issues brought by Mr. Dewan Ahmed during the BAH Annual General Body Meeting of June 24<sup>th</sup> 2011.
- Mr. Arun Roy mentioned that a reputable law firm and a CPA are working on the resolution on the BAC restructure project such that it is done right from the legal aspect to meet the IRS, State and Federal laws and regulations.
- Mr. Shapnik Khan, BAH Secretary General asked questions to his Board regarding the clarification of the BAC restructure project and asked why he was not aware of all these upcoming changes.
- Mr. Arun Roy and Hasan Rahman have answered Mr. Shapnik Khan's by mentioning that he had missed the BAH emergency meeting on August 9, 2011 along with a very important leadership retreats on July 22, 2011.
- Mr. Saddam Ahmad, BAC Chief Engineer mentioned that if a Board Member misses a meeting then it is the duty and an obligation of that Member to know what was discussed. The BAH Emergency Meeting minutes which was provided by the Chairperson to the secretary may not have captured all the general discussions but the secretary could have called other Board Members to find out the discussion points.
- Mr. Saddam Ahmad provided an overview of the BAC facility architectural drawings and the civil drawing before the submission to the city to obtain the city permit. This was the last chance for the members and donors to review and critic before the city permit of such drawings.
- Mr. Hasan Rahman mentioned that \$220,000.00 set aside in Wells Fargo BAH savings account for the construction fund after the initial BAC expenses were disbursed for the city permit and BAC Donor Conference (data are available in [http://bachouston.org/financial\\_statements.html](http://bachouston.org/financial_statements.html) ) .
- Mr. Afzal Ahmed, ex BAH Chairperson committed to help in organizing an effort to mobilize the Friends of BAC (FOBAC) initiative. Currently, BAC has about eight FOBAC members where monthly BAC receives funds from an auto draft setup with PayPal, Visa and Master Card on the BAC website,

this fund gets to BAC Checking account to pay for the operational expenses of the current facility (<http://bachouston.org/donate.html>).

- Mr. Afzal Ahmed request to give opportunity to the audience to have constructive dialogs with the committee instead of BAH officers asking questions to their officers that are needed to resolves in their executive meetings.
- Dr. Selina Ahmed, an ex-chairperson of BAH had mentioned about an unnamed anonymous letter she received at her home address. It seems like BAH address labels being used for this gutless and shameful act in mailing letter with no return address or named. She has filed a formal complaint to BAH Chairperson to investigate how BAH member's personal address and email being compromised. It is a direct violation of privacy of an individual.
- Mr. Arun Roy will initiate to launch a police investigation regarding the complain letters received by him along with the defamatory statements posted on Facebook by some faceless Islam Khan who is an approved member of the BAH Facebook page, yet neither recognized as a BAH member per the Secretary General nor seemingly known to other BAH members/patrons--only to suggest that the offender is hiding his true identity..
- Dr. Selina Ahmed was very much encouraged to help BAH in raising corporate fund and wants to coordinate the fund raising effort for the BAC. She would even contribute her first year of Social Security checks to complete the BAC construction project. She also request for a formal corporate fundraising committee to solicit funds from corporation.
- BAC Committee will provide necessary promotional packages to Dr. Selina Ahmed in an effort to organize the corporate fund raising.
- Detail discussion took place regarding the uncollected pledge fund of over \$160,000.00 that was pledged during the Donor Conference. This uncollected fund needed to be collected by the BAC Committee and should be the highest priority to contact those individuals immediately (by email, a formal letter followed by phone calls). Mr. Arun Roy has asked BAH Director of Finance and Budget Mr. S. M. Azad to help and coordinating with BAC committee to collect the pledge fund. It was emphasized that this should be his number one priority.
- Ms. Nahida Naser, Cultural Affair Director walked in the meeting toward the end of the meeting and had asked question from the audience sit for not being able to review the BAC Bank Account statements and her not knowing the BAC financial matters . She was very much interested to find out the activities of BAC fund and bank account.
- Mr. Hasan Rahman had to go back to his opening Power Point slide to let her know that all BAC Monthly Financial Statements with income vs. expenses available on the BAC website. BAC minutes, financial data along with other data are all provided on to the BAC website and BAC is completely transparent. Mr. Hasan Rahman expressed concern that Shapnik Khan and Nahida Naser might be having "the same problem", further clarifying that their claim of being in the dark is because they have not spent the effort necessary to explore external information long available to the public via the website, or internal resources generally available to them as BoD, e.g. official books/records and access to fellow leaders who attended multiple meetings that they had missed recently."
- Mr. Shah Haleem wrote down the action items from feedbacks from the audience related to BAC Fundraising

1. Put a fund raising package together for the individual donors
  2. Prepare an Individual pledge form
  3. Prepare a corporate pledge form and work with Dr. Selina Ahmed to put a corporate Fund Raising team
  4. Put a FR package together for corporate donors
  5. Work with Afzal Ahmed to get FOBAC drive started
  6. Prepare a letter to all pledged donor to remind them to pay the pledged funds
  7. Regroup BAC FR team to start Phase II.
- Meeting adjourned around 4:10pm