

Meeting Minutes:

BAC Open Committee Meeting at 12 Noon August 1st 2010 at the BAC

Attendees: Saddam Ahmad, Mohammed (Sohidul) Islam, S. S. Newaz, Saeeda Newaz, Zahidur Rahman, Shah Haleem, SM Haleem, Mohammed Hasan (Masud), Ahmad Quabili, Asif Raihan, Arif Islam, Afzal Ahmed, Nahida Naser, Emran Hasan (Tamim), Hasan Rahman, Shapnik Khan, Mohammed Masoom

The meeting started at 12:45pm by Hasan Rahman. He requested Afzal Ahmed to set the meeting procedure.

Afzal Ahmed requested the attendees to be reasonable and to the point during the meeting without repeating the same topic to utilize the meeting time efficiently. He also requested not to have cross talk and direct all issues and concerns to the BAC EB.

Even though there were many agenda items the discussion was centered on the topic of the state of BAC and the recent effort of reaching larger section of Bangladeshi community to build the center.

Hasan Rahman gave the meeting status where he mentioned

- It was a discussion meeting to see the feasibility of having one center in Houston. Due to the lack of attendee it was merely a discussion where he BAC EB requested to continue this dialogue for few weeks to come up with a proposal.
- It is to be noted that Hasan Rahman mentioned that no decision was made and no decision will be made without informing and involving BAH and BAC.
- It was mentioned that BAC EB is exploring the feasibility of including individuals of other organizations based on BAH activities during FOBANA and Ambassador Reception where community members welcomed both efforts.
- He then shared his views where he mentioned that he might have personal difference with others but as the center director his responsibility is to be fair and serve the BAH and BAC donor members in the process of building this institution.
- He also mentioned that in his conscious mind he would like to give his full effort to build a community center for all Houston Bangladeshis regardless of their affiliation. He then shared his concerns regarding decreased participation. He feels that with repeated request BAC EB is not getting the support for its surroundings that include those individuals who are raising concerns about recent community dialogues.

Saddam Ahmad mentioned that he doesn't have any problem to go out of the box and talk to people to build the center as long as we are within the guideline. He also mentioned that prior events are not important to him but he would do everything possible to keep the group together in the process of these community dialogues and building the center.

Shah Haleem acknowledged that BAC is lacking to disseminate information and he takes the full responsibility as the Public Relation (PR) Director. PR director will try to distribute information in a timely and efficient manner.

S. S. Newaz mentioned that we are seeing the decline of our participation for last few months. He also mentioned that we must analyze what are we gaining and losing in the process of reaching certain individuals and other organization. He also mentioned that BAH has the responsibility to serve its members first in the process of building the center. Information should be made available in timely and efficient manner to allow others to be involved in the process. He has concern with recent effort of dialogue with other individuals and group. He feels that it is impossible to get positive outcome of these discussions. He also mentioned that Dr. K. M. A. Rahman has a responsibility to give us a way to explore the feasibility of having one center in Houston since he proposed during the Ambassador Reception.

Several attendees including Mrs. Saeeda Newaz and Arif Islam asked whether there is a change in the other individuals and organization in these dialogues from their previous stands. Hasan Rahman mentioned that by coming to the center on an invitation for dialogue gives us a feeling that there is a change but we wouldn't know until we continue these dialogues for reasonable time.

Mohammed Hasan (Masud) was concerned about recent community dialogue. He then asked how long these discussions will continue. Hasan Rahman mentioned that four to five weeks of discussions would be sufficient enough to come up with a proposal.

Shapnik Khan was also concerned with these community dialogues. He feels that BAC EB involvement with these dialogues that include people from other organization will damage our exiting friendship and work environment.

Mohammed Masoom was concerned about the meeting and stated that if the information about the BAC meeting distributed earlier then there could have been more people in the meeting.

Afzal Ahmed mentioned that we must evaluate the impact of these community dialogues. He made comments on overall discussion and those are

1. We should do everything possible to keep our group together and to do that we should continue dialogue until we are comfortable
2. We the working group should participate more in this weekly fundraising meeting in order for us to create a similar process that was established during the FOBANA
3. BAH has the primary responsibility to serve its members but also have the responsibility to provide support and promote goodwill and understanding among all Bangladeshis regardless of their affiliation.
4. Information is getting out much more efficient manner for several years especially with the bah-forum where about 60 people are part of the process
5. Answering S. S. Newaz that a communication was done with K. M. A. Rahman regarding his proposal. A community dialogue can help us in this regards

6. Afzal Ahmed proposed to study the India Center structure where the governing body can include other organization without compromising the core value of BAC. During this process - we may need to look into restructuring BAC EB where a portion of EB member can be represented by head of organization and rest are elected by the donor member as we are doing today. In this we have more people in the EB to carry on this gigantic effort.
7. BAC EB has the responsibility to keep us informed and be in the same page, as well as, the volunteers also have the responsibility to disseminate BAC information in assisting the BAC awareness toward the process in building BAC as an institute.

After discussion it was decided that these community dialogues will continue for 4 meetings to come up with findings and a proposal to be presented to the next open committee meeting and to the BAH general body meeting.
