# Hindu Society of Central Florida

## Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

## Meeting Details

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| **Date & Time** | **January 25, 2026 9:50 AM** |
| **Location** | Board Room, HSCF Temple Hall |
| **Directors Present** | Shri Deepak Aggarwal<br>Shri Babuji Ambikapathy<br>Shri Madhu Cherukuri<br>Shri Pramod Dubey<br>Shri Mahendra Kapadia – ***Joined via ZOOM session***<br>Shri Satish Mahajan<br>Shri Ramprasad Nitta<br>Shri. Jogi Pattisapu – ***Joined via ZOOM session***<br>*Shri Muthuswami Swamy (President, EC)* |
| **Directors Absent** | None |
| **Visitors** | *Shri Eshwar Boddepalli (Vice-President, EC) joined in-person after the meeting has started* |

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order and conducted in a hybrid format (in-person and via Zoom). The meeting started with an opening prayer. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was confirmed present.

## 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

***The Secretary presented the minutes of the previous meeting for review. A motion was made by the Secretary and seconded to approve the previous meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.***

# 3. Committee Formation and Governance

- The proposed committee structures and memberships were reviewed. Concerns were raised regarding certain individuals serving on multiple committees, potentially creating conflicts of interest and concentration of responsibility.
- ***A motion was proposed to postpone the Appellate Committee endorsement until the last board meeting in February and passed unanimously.***
- ***A motion was made to approve the committees as proposed, with the understanding that minor adjustments and verifications may be made subsequently. The list will be reviewed by the board during the end of February for final approval of the sub-committee members list. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*** *The list of all committee members as proposed and approved by the board is listed in the appendix - 1*
- Emphasized the importance of HSCF increasing its community visibility through educational, cultural, and non-religious outreach initiatives (e.g., UCF student engagement, SAT classes, CFIC school outreach, robotics programs). Recommend incorporating representation from these groups—now or in the future—to highlight and strengthen their contributions, showcase HSCF's broader community impact, and ensure these efforts are periodically reported back to the Board.
- The Board agreed in principle that all committee chairs and members should execute a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure and Acknowledgement. Any business interests or potential conflicts shall be disclosed for transparency.
- It was further agreed that each committee chair shall circulate the applicable sections of the bylaws to their respective committee members to ensure clarity of duties and responsibilities.
- A recommendation was made to consider a future bylaw amendment on the quantity of committee composition limits and agreed that the board will have necessary discussions to address this subject when appropriate.
- **Action Items:**
  - *Swami to coordinate with EC Secretary Lakshmi for sharing the EC Committee members list*
  - *All committee chairs and members should execute a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure and Acknowledgement. Any business interests or potential conflicts shall be disclosed for transparency.*
  - *Each committee chair shall circulate the applicable sections of the bylaws to their respective committee members to ensure clarity of duties and responsibilities.*

# 4. Security and Safety

The Board held an extensive discussion regarding safety and security at temple events, noting heightened risk concerns and recent incidents nationally and locally.

- The Board affirmed that the responsibility for security rests with HSCF and shall not be delegated solely to event organizers.
- It was agreed in principle that security should be mandatory for applicable events, and that events may be cancelled if adequate security arrangements are not in place.
- The Board expressed a strong preference for uniformed, visible security personnel, preferably from the Seminole County Sheriff's Department.
- ***A motion was made and approved to direct the Executive Committee to ensure that, effective immediately, all new hall bookings shall require mandatory security arrangements. For the first 60 days, temple will bear the full cost of the security arrangements, after that the cost sharing will take effect***.
- ***Further a motion was made to defer the adoption of a permanent cost-sharing and security policy framework to the February meeting in conjunction with bylaw review. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.***
- A proposal was made by one of the members to hire some external security during the weekends (Friday – Sunday). Also, EC to discuss this item and present a proposal during next board meeting.
- **Action Items:**
  - *Eshwar and Lakshmi shall develop and present a comprehensive security proposal, including the feasibility of weekend standing security coverage, within two weeks.*
  - *The EC Secretary shall notify upcoming event organizers that enhanced security requirements will be implemented.*
  - *Satish will circulate prior GC-approved security guidelines document for reference.*
  - *EC to present a proposal for hiring external security on a long-term basis covering weekends.*

# 5. Surveillance Systems and Safety Equipment

Issues were reported with the current camera and monitoring systems, including loss of front office feed and uncertainty regarding access control.

The Board also emphasized the need to verify that AED units and fire extinguishers are present, accessible, clearly labeled, and operational, with particular attention to the kitchen area.

- **Action Items:**

- *Eshwar and Swami from EC to provide a detailed report on the status of the surveillance Systems detailing which systems are operational, which require repair, and who currently has access*

# 6. Capital Projects Update

An update was provided by Promod on major ongoing and planned capital projects, including the kitchen hood/canteen project, storage and access pathway improvements, and auditorium enhancements.

**i) Ratham Storage Project:**

- Project is **nearing completion**; remaining work includes **door installation** and **driveway/paver widening** to improve safety for turning and maneuvering.
- **Pavers will remain** on the main road and pathways to maintain water permeability; concrete limited to immediate building exit area.
- Safety suggestion noted to use **rotating plywood platforms** to protect pavers during heavy equipment movement.
- **Financials**:
    - ~$70,000 spent to date
    - ~$22,000 estimated for pavers
    - ~$15,000 estimated for door
    - **Total budget allocated:** $140,000; project expected to remain **at or under budget**.
- **Timeline:** Target completion by **end of February**, subject to material delivery.

**ii) Kitchen Renovation Project**

- **Phase 1 completed**; **Phase 2** (hood installation and fire suppression system) completed last weekend.
- Remaining work includes:
    - Air conditioning relocation
    - Plumbing and sink installation
    - Flooring/tiling (non-skid tiles under review)
    - Structural reinforcement for rooftop/platform access.
- **Budget**:
    - $185,000 allocated
    - ~$100,000 spent to date
    - Project tracking within approved budget.
- **Code & Safety Compliance**:
    - Approximately 90% of electrical and safety issues above ceiling grid corrected
    - County inspections are ongoing.

- **Timeline**:
    - All work except AC expected by **end of February**
    - AC and related structural work expected by **end of March**.
- **Operational Discussion**:
    - Strong emphasis on **safety-first execution**
    - Discussion was held on whether temporary kitchen closure could accelerate completion; and it was left to EC's decision to close when it absolutely needed for safety execution.

**iii) Classroom Extension Project**

- Architectural and civil engineering drawings **completed and GC-approved in 2024**.
- Project deferred due to prioritization of larger inherited projects (Ratham storage and kitchen).
- Requires **planning department review and new variance approval** due to additional square footage in a residential zone.
- Board noted **neighborhood sensitivity and public perception risks** related to variances; landscaping improvements recommended prior to application.

**iv) Auditorium & Facilities Updates**

- Auditorium curtains installed, surplus fabric available for potential additional use.
- Suggestion made to polish main hall flooring periodically (e.g., monthly or before major festivals) to improve appearance and upkeep.
- **Scissor Lift**:
    - Decision made to **purchase locally**
    - Ownership is justified by recurring height, safety, and operational requirements.

**v) Landscaping, Security, and Property Matters**

- Rear property fence was installed last year with permits to improve security following land clearing.
- Tree clearing performed per county and arborist guidelines.
- Landscaping identifies as a key factor affecting future variance approvals and neighborhood relations.

# 7. Fundraising Update from Ramprasad

- Total pledges ~**$179,000**
- **Approximately ~$90,000 collected to date**, including ~$9,500 recently recovered.
- Continued follow up on outstanding pledges planned. -up on outstanding pledges planned.

## 8. **Governance & Process Notes**

- Board emphasized:
    - Respectful engagement with EC meetings
    - Advance inclusion of high priority items (e.g., security) on agendas where possible. -priority items (e.g., security)
- **Budget approval required by the end of next month** per bylaws.
- Next steps:
    - Committees to present scope, costs, and priorities at upcoming EC meeting
    - Landscaping and long-term planning to be added as agenda items.

## 9. Meeting Attendance and Visitor Participation Policy

The Board discussed principles of transparency and openness while balancing the need for orderly proceedings and confidentiality for sensitive matters.

It was generally agreed that visitors may attend meetings but may speak only with the permission of the Chair. For sensitive matters, visitors may be asked to recuse themselves. This matter will be formalized as a future policy.

A vote was taken regarding the presence of an EC member participant for this meeting, and the majority approved allowing the individual to remain for the current session.

## 10. Committee Structures and Bylaws requirements

Concerns were expressed regarding the large number of committees, the high number of required committee members, and the practice of appointing members merely to satisfy bylaw requirements.

It was agreed that these structural issues shall be addressed as part of a future bylaw review process, with full Board discussion prior to submission to the bylaws committee.

## 11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to be held in two weeks, February 8.

## 12. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and duly approved. The meeting concluded with a closing prayer.

# 13. Action Item List

| Action Item | Responsible Party | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Share the EC Committee members list with BOD Secretary for validation | Swami / Lakshmi (EC) | Open |
| All committee chairs and members should execute a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure and Acknowledgement. Any business interests or potential conflicts shall be disclosed for transparency. | All Committee Chairs | Open |
| Each committee chair shall circulate the applicable sections of the bylaws to their respective committee members to ensure clarity of duties and responsibilities. | All Committee Chairs | Open |
| Develop and present a comprehensive security proposal, including the feasibility of weekend standing security coverage, within two weeks.<br>Satish will circulate prior GC-approved security guidelines document for reference. | Eshwar and Lakshmi | Open |
| The EC Secretary shall notify upcoming event organizers that enhanced security requirements will be implemented. | Lakshmi – EC Secretary | Open |
| EC to present a proposal for hiring external security on a long-term basis covering weekends. | Swami – EC President | |
| Provide a detailed report on the status of the surveillance Systems detailing which systems are operational, which require repair, and who currently has access | Swami and Eshwar from EC | Open |

## Appendix - 1

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| Hindu Society of Central Florida<br>Hindu Society<br>of Central Florida | **Hindu Society of Central Florida**<br>BOD Committees |

# BOD Committees List (01/25/2026)

| Committee Chair | Name of the Committee | Committee Members |
|---|---|---|
| **Shri Jogi Pattisapu** | Strategy and Planning Committee | 1. Shri Vijay Gopani<br>2. Smt Mala Karkhanis<br>3. Smt Hema Madangopal-Shah<br>4. Shri Ganesh Ramachandran<br>5. Shri Shub Dev Sharma<br>6. Shri Anandkumar Velayudham |
| **Shri Satish Mahajan** | Audit and By-Laws Committee | 1. Shri Indrasena Kasireddy<br>2. Shri Tim Madhanagopal<br>3. Shri Nitin Palsule<br>4. Shri Milind Pathak<br>5. **Shri Anil Sharma – Pending verification**<br>6. **Shri Arjun Valipireddy – Pending verification** |
| **Shri Madhu Cherukuri** | Membership Committee | 1. Shri Chandrasekhar Ayyalaraju<br>2. Shri Virender Chauhan<br>3. Shri Balaji Kottapak<br>4. **Shri Nirali Patel – Pending verification**<br>5. Shri Mahesh Ramchandran |
| **Shri Babuji Ambikapathy** | Finance Committee | 1. Shri Nandakumar Chakkingal<br>2. Shri KV Rao<br>3. Shri NC Murthy<br>4. Shri Kamalesh Shah<br>5. Shri Sampathkumar Shanmugam<br>6. Shri Dinendra Singla<br>7. Shri Anandakumar Velayutham |
| **Shri Ramprasad Nitta** | Fundraising Committee | 1. Shri Suryanarayana Challapalli |

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|---|---|---|
| | | 2. **Shri Balaji Chandrashekar – pending verification**<br>3. Shri Virender Chauhan<br>4. Shri Anshu Jain<br>5. Shri Ganesh Jakkamsetti<br>6. Shri Vinay Mahankali<br>7. Shri Satya Manthena<br>8. Shri Suresh Mekapati<br>9. Shri Yash Sachadev<br>10. Shri Ravi Saragarajan<br>11. Shri Suresh Sarvasiddi<br>12. Shri Seela Srinivas |
| **Shri Deepak Aggarwal** | Assets, Construction and Major Renovations Committee | 1. Shri Suresh Gupta<br>2. Shri Shivakumar Racha<br>3. Shri Dev Sharma<br>4. **Shri Sanjay Srivastava – Pending verification** |
| **Shri Promod Dubey** | Education, Grants and Community Outreach Committee | 1. Shri Aditi Gandhi<br>2. Shri Anu Krishnan<br>3. Shri Thiru<br>4. Shri Raju Vegesna |
| **Shri Mahendra Kapadia** | Religious Planning Committee | 1. Shri Kirit Mistry<br>2. Shri Rajiv Patel<br>3. Shri Prasant Saoji |
| | Appellate Committee | 1. Shashi Kamat<br>2. Tim Madangopal<br>3. Sharad Mehta |