Hindu Society of Central Florida

Semi-Annual General Body Meeting

Meeting Details

Date & Time	**August 2, 2026. 10:30 AM**
Location	HSCF Community Hall, Casselberry, FL
BOD Members Present	Shri Deepak Aggarwal Shri Babuji Ambikapathy Shri Madhu Cherukuri Shri Promod Dubey Shri Mahendra Kapadia Shri Satish Mahajan Shri Ramprasad Nitta Shri Jogi Pattisapu Shri Muthuswami Swamy (President, EC)
EC Members Present	Shri Eshwar Boddepalli – Vice President Smt Lakshmi Mangalampalli – Secretary Shri Alagappan – Treasurer Shri Sadanand Pandey – Fixed Assets Chair Shri Sanjeev Singla – Education Chair Shri Karthik Balasubramaniam – Canteen Chair Shri Ketan Patel – Religious Chair Shri Raji Somasekhar – Program Chair

1. Opening

The meeting opened with a prayer. Shri Jogi Pattisapu, Chair of the Board of Directors, welcomed attendees and noted that the meeting fell on the eve of Swami Chinmayananda's Aradhana Day (observed August 3), and asked the assembly to reflect on Swamiji's teaching that a community hall, like a temple, keeps a community connected across generations. He noted the Park Square Homes representatives were unable to attend and that Shri Pramod Dubey would provide the Vasanthavatika update on their behalf.

2. Chair's Remarks – Progress Update

The Chair reviewed accomplishments from the current leadership term (approximately the past six months):

- Kitchen expansion completed – improved seating, faster service, positive devotee feedback.
- Fiber-optic internet installed campus-wide, including the Patashala and priest quarters.
- Roof replacement and gutter-leak repairs completed.

- Five Acharya visits held over the past six months, with attendance exceeding 350 for major programs (Ram Navami, Thaipoosam, Tamil New Year, Telugu Ugadi and others).
- Foundation (Investment & Endowment Board, "IEB") formally established, holding approximately $2,075,000 in reserves.
- Vasanthavatika Phase 2 senior housing construction underway; approximately 13 of 37 units reserved with deposits.
- Security program expanded, including a dedicated Seminole County Sheriff's Deputy presence scaled to campus attendance and CCTV monitoring.
- Irrigation/sprinkler system installed and landscaping Phase 1 underway, supported by a $25,000 donation from Shri Chakri Toleti.
- Roof fundraising campaign raised approximately $283,000 toward roof, gutter, and interior painting work (coordinated by Shri Ramprasad Nitta).
- Gopuram waterproofing/restoration project ongoing; camera monitoring in place to track water intrusion.

Near-term priorities identified by the Chair

- Revisit the previously board-approved Yagashala project
- Repair of the hall wall damaged by a vehicle collision, coordinated with insurance (Allstate), with a possible opportunity to upgrade the hall for weddings and family functions.
- Add covered outdoor seating near the canteen.
- Pursue additional adjacent land acquisition to support Pathasala and youth programming space.

3. EC President's Report

Dr. Muthuswami (Swami), EC President, reported that the EC's one-year term has focused on strengthening in-temple religious activity and the devotee experience. He highlighted two priorities the Board is actively pursuing:

- Hiring a Temple Manager to provide consistent on-site coverage and reduce operational gaps.
- Hiring two additional priests, noting the temple's four priests were engaged in 2005 and the community has grown substantially since.

He then introduced each EC committee chair to summarize their respective updates.

4. Committee Chair Reports

4.1 Religious Activities / Festivals (Shri Ketan Patel)

Now in his fourth year on the EC, Ketan reported a full calendar of festivals (New Year, Sivaratri, Holi, and others) with record attendance and record donation collections this year. He indicated willingness to continue serving through the remainder of his term. He also noted increased demand for priest-led services, including complimentary funeral services, and confirmed the temple is limited by having only four priests (two on duty at a time). Resumes for additional priests are under review, with a target of moving forward by December pending Board approval.

4.3 Social and Education (Shri Sanjeev Singla)

Shri Sanjeev Singla, Social and Education Chair, gave a brief update; detailed remarks were deferred, with the chair noting time constraints and inviting questions to be taken later in the meeting.

4.4 Program and Cultural (Smt Raji Shekar)

Ms. Raji Sekar, Cultural Committee Chair (fourth and final year), reported a focus on classical arts alongside popular programming:

- Republic Day function held jointly with the New Age group.
- India Fest: over 300 cultural-program participants and 100+ competition participants, including a new multilingual regional Antakshari competition; Smt. Geeta Aunty was honored as chief guest for her long-standing community service.
- Kirtan Band Concert (ages 4–17): completed its 16th year as an annual fundraiser; the 17th season begins the following week.
- Shastriya Sabha: a classical music/dance club holding monthly concerts inside the temple on the last Sunday of each month.
- HSCF Samohika Yoga Shala: launched in March; daily online classes (6–7 a.m. and 7:45–8:30 p.m., the latter run with Yoga To Me/Vaibhav Joshi); recent workshops included a Brain Longevity session and a visit from Guru Yogi Devraj Ji, with a children's workshop upcoming.

All of these programs (Kirtan Band, Yoga Shala, Shastriya Sabha) are offered free of charge; the chair asked for continued donor support to sustain them.

4.5 Fixed Assets (Shri Sadanand Pandey)

- Jewelry/asset inventory: approximately 196 items tracked in Asset Tigers software; roughly two-thirds physically verified to date, with the remaining one-third targeted for completion.
- Kitchen expansion: substantially complete (new hood, dosa grill, burners, air conditioning, shutters, stainless steel liner panels); one remaining county inspection needed to formally close out the project. Reported project cost: approximately $182,000 (figure as stated in the recording – recommend verification).
- Ratham storage building: construction and paver work complete; reported cost approximately $112,000.
- Gopuram repair/restoration: two bids received, a third pending before a vendor decision is made.
- Stage curtains replaced for the first time in recent memory.
- Hall wall repair (vehicle-impact damage): a structural engineer inspected the site and will deliver a report and repair drawings; a contractor will then be engaged.

4.6 Canteen and Food (Shri Karthik Balasubramaniam)

In his fourth and final year as Canteen and Food Chair, Karthik reported that HSCF operates the only fully vegetarian commercial kitchen in Seminole County, serving both in-person devotees and catering orders for home functions.

- Served approximately 1,200 devotees on banana leaf during Sri Ramanavami and approximately 650 devotees during a weeknight Ugadi service.
- Infrastructure upgrades included new vegetable-cutting equipment and a new POS/ordering system, freeing up staff previously dedicated to billing.
- Added Monday evening canteen service, now drawing close to 100 attendees.
- Recognized canteen and kitchen staff (including head chefs with 30+ years' combined experience) and numerous long-serving volunteers.
- Requested continued donations to fund covered outdoor seating for peak-season overflow.

4.7 Membership / Front Office and Policy (Smt Lakshmi Bangalampalli, EC Secretary)

- Reported that current membership figures displayed publicly are several months out of date; more recent updates exist for Life Membership and Trustee categories.
- Drafted and had the EC approve new policies: dress code/temple attire, equal pay/compensation evaluation, and general temple behavior expectations (applicable to devotees, staff, EC, and Board alike); flyers to follow.

- Code of conduct and conflict-of-interest policies are in progress, including staff training.
- Reorganized the front office and back-room space for better use.
- Coordinates weekly garland-making with volunteer groups (approximately 25–30 garlands per week).
- Installed devotee-facing informational displays explaining temple customs for visitors unfamiliar with the tradition.

4.8 Treasurer's Report (Shri Alagappan)

The Treasurer (recently assumed the role, succeeding Kam Shah) presented year-to-date operating financials through May 2026. Figures below are as stated in the recording; the expense total was unclear in portions of the audio and should be confirmed against the Treasurer's underlying report before publication.

Category	Amount
Canteen revenue	$355,000
Free-will offerings / donations (misc.)	$65,000
Hundi (donation box) collections – two openings, first 5 months	$65,000
Daily puja & other services	$126,000
Special events & Anandana (donations) combined	$80,000
Membership dues	$12,000
Other income	~$35,000–$40,000
Interest income	$36,000
Total operating receipts (through May 2026)	**$768,000**

- Reported total operating expenses through May were stated inconsistently in the recording (approximately $676,000 in one instance) with a resulting operating surplus cited as approximately $92,000; this should be reconciled against the Treasurer's written report.
- Non-recurring costs noted separately from prior-year comparisons include approximately $22,000 in new security expenses over the first five months (previously unbudgeted).
- Figures above exclude restricted special-project funds (e.g., roof donations).

4.9 IT Infrastructure, Security & Governance (Shri Eshwar, jointly with Shri Satish Mahajan)

Shri Satish Mahajan opened by crediting close coordination between the Security and IT/Governance portfolios, noting the addition of a Seminole County Sheriff's Deputy presence as a proactive, budgeted safety investment for the campus.

- Campus-wide Wi-Fi implemented at a budget of approximately $19,500, covering the temple, Patashala, and surrounding grounds.
- New fiber-optic internet service secured (negotiated directly with Spectrum) enabling livestreaming of events and remote/virtual puja requests.
- More than 85 security cameras now installed across the property.
- An Emergency Operations Plan was implemented jointly with Seminole County Sheriff's Office deputies following on-site assessments.
- QuickBooks reporting/analytics improvements underway; longer-term goal of a unified ERP system for accounting.

- Centralized audio system upgrade in progress, targeted for completion in the last quarter of the year; evaluating multiple vendors.

The Chair separately recognized Shri Ramu Gurudevi (facilities, traveling and unable to attend) and Shri Ashish Tiwari (absent due to injury) for their continued rapid response to maintenance emergencies across the campus.

5. Vasanthavatika (Senior Housing Phase 2) Update (Shri Promod Dubey)

Shri Pramod Dubey presented on behalf of the Park Square Homes team, who were unable to attend.

- Project background: contract with Park Square Homes finalized in 2021 following county variance approval; delays were attributable to water-retention/site requirements and county process.
- Current status: 37 total units platted (single-family homes and 1,500 sq. ft. single-story villas) with a security-gated entry and a shared clubhouse (approximately 4,000 sq. ft., estimated cost approximately $900,000).
- Clubhouse access: will be owned/operated in coordination with the community HOA; HSCF secures membership-based access for its senior programming as part of the arrangement (HSCF does not own the property directly).
- Reservations: approximately 13 of 37 units currently hold $10,000 refundable-to-nonrefundable deposits; approximately 25 units remain to be sold.
- Pricing: estimated single-family homes around $400,000; villas priced lower; final pricing to be confirmed within a few weeks.
- No homestead requirement – owners are not required to live on-site six months per year, enabling second-home ownership.
- Community benefit commitment: HSCF/canteen will sponsor two community events per year for residents (spring/fall or around major festivals such as Diwali/Navaratri); canteen service planned to be available seven days a week to residents, subject to a fixed menu still to be developed with the Canteen Chair.
- Next steps: a Zoom call with deposit holders is planned for mid-August to finalize lot selection and convert the $10,000 deposit to a 30% non-refundable deposit, after which sales will open to the broader membership and then nationally, with a target to sell out by December.
- Funding structure: the original 2020 land contract value of $500,000 was increased to $800,000 to reflect current market land value; the increase is recovered as homes are sold (approximately $15,000 per home allocated toward this), with remaining proceeds directed to the Foundation (IEB) reserve per Board decision.

6. Questions and Answers

The floor was opened for questions following the committee reports and the Vasanthavatika update. A summary of the topics raised and the Board/EC's responses follows.

Topic	Question / Concern Raised	Board / EC Response
Coordination with Chennai Mission on language classes	Can HSCF and Chennai Mission coordinate Sanskrit/language classes to avoid duplication, since both are on the same campus?	The Board agreed this was a good idea and had not previously been considered. The Board will reach out to Chennai Mission to explore a joint program.
Vasanthavatika (Senior Housing) – HOA requirement	Will the 37 Vasanthavatika homes have a Homeowners' Association (HOA)? Does an owner need to reside there, and does the HOA requirement still apply if it is a second home?	Yes, an HOA is required and will be run independently by the residents/developer, not by HSCF. There is no homestead (primary-residency) requirement, so owners may keep the property as a second

Topic	Question / Concern Raised	Board / EC Response
		home and still be HOA members subject to dues.
Temple atmosphere, priest coverage, and youth engagement (raised by a longtime volunteer)	Concerns raised: (1) the temple sometimes feels more like a commercial/restaurant environment than a place of worship; (2) donor/devotee names are not consistently announced during pujas when only one priest is on duty; (3) suggestion to give children more ownership of rituals (e.g., group Abhishekam) to encourage youth participation.	Leadership acknowledged the priest-staffing shortage is being actively addressed (see additional-priest hiring under EC report). On youth engagement, the EC President described giving devotee groups – rather than a single director – ownership of events so children can actively participate (e.g., 20 children performing Abhishekam together), and noted that linking temple language classes to school credit has helped drive youth attendance. The GC President added that open, less-restricted spaces within the temple could be used for group Abhishekam for deities such as Ganesha, similar to practices seen at other U.S. temples.
Ratham cost breakdown	What is the total, itemized cost of procuring the Ratham (chariot), including shipment from India, crane/assembly, and pathway modifications?	The Ratham itself was contracted for $60,000; assembly, crane, and related costs added approximately $16,000, for a Ratham total of approximately $76,000. The Ratham storage building (site work, vertical construction, electrical, and pathway) cost approximately $112,000, based on itemized invoices. Remaining pathway grading/sod work is still to be completed.
Endowment / Foundation fund growth	What has been the growth of the Investment & Endowment Board (IEB) / Foundation fund (currently ~$2,075,000) over the past 10 years, compared against project spending?	The fund represents accumulated reserves set aside per HSCF bylaws, not new board-gifted money. The Investment Policy Statement (IPS) was finalized in the last month, allocating between cash reserves, ETFs, and international securities; funds are currently earning approximately 3.5% in a money-market account (deposited June 30). The Foundation Committee aka IEB (Shri Sharad Mehta, Shri N.C. Murthy, Shri Chakri Toleti, Shri Anshu Jain) will work toward higher, closer-to-double-digit returns going forward. A formal historical growth analysis/projection was requested by the member and was not available at the meeting.

Topic	Question / Concern Raised	Board / EC Response
Balance of spiritual vs. commercial atmosphere	Follow-up comment: does the temple risk feeling more “commercial” than spiritual given its scale of activity?	The Chair responded that the temple remains a spiritually powerful, inclusive place per consistent devotee feedback over 36 years, while acknowledging ongoing facility imperfections that the Board is addressing incrementally.
Security contact continuity	Deputy/security contacts are currently maintained personally by the IT & Security Chair. What happens when that individual transitions out of the role?	The primary point of contact, Sergeant Deborah Jacobs (Seminole County Sheriff's Office), is maintained in the shared security database, not solely on one person's phone. Individual deputies rotate based on off-duty availability, which is why the working contact list changes day to day, but the primary contact record is institutional.
Canteen operations – seating/paging system, volunteer seating, and PPE	Requests raised: (1) improve the order-number paging/seating area, which is hard to hear over exhaust noise; (2) reposition a specific volunteer's seating to reduce friction with other canteen volunteers; (3) provide protective aprons for canteen volunteers for insurance/liability purposes.	The Chair directed that these operational canteen issues be routed first to the Canteen Chair, who will bring them to the EC for a decision, rather than being resolved directly at the General Body Meeting.
Dress code and flower-offering etiquette	Should HSCF communicate a formal dress-code expectation for visitors, and why do priests sometimes decline certain flowers offered by devotees?	The Board affirmed that a dress-code expectation is appropriate and will be communicated. On flowers, certain flowers (e.g., oleander, bougainvillea, and other “milky”-sap blooms) are not offered to certain deities per scriptural tradition; priests may set aside such offerings rather than reject them outright, and this is considered doctrinally correct practice.

7. Follow-Up / Action Items

The following items were identified during the meeting for follow-up by the Board, EC, or relevant committee chairs:

Topic	Owner
Explore a joint Sanskrit/language-class program with Chennai Mission to avoid duplication.	Board / EC
Escalate outstanding canteen seating, paging/acoustics, and volunteer-apron requests through the Canteen Chair to the EC for a decision.	Canteen Chair → EC
Complete remaining Ratham pathway grading/sod work.	Facilities (Satyanand)
Continue Gopuram restoration bid process (third bid pending) and select a vendor.	Deepak Aggarwal / GC
Complete final county inspection to formally close out the kitchen expansion project.	Facilities / GC
Obtain structural engineer's letter report and contractor scope for the hall wall repair (vehicle-impact damage) and coordinate with insurance (Allstate).	GC / Deepak Aggarwal
Continue hiring process for two additional priests; review submitted resumes.	EC / Ketan
Advance Temple Manager search.	Board / EC
Schedule mid-August Zoom call with Vasanthavatika deposit holders to finalize lot selection and convert deposits to 30% non-refundable.	Pramod Dubey
Provide itemized historical growth/projection analysis for the Foundation (IEB) fund.	Finance Committee
Install covered/shaded outdoor seating for canteen overflow.	GC / Board (fundraising)
Draft and circulate temple dress-code communication to membership.	Board / EC

8. Closing

With no further business, the Chair thanked all attendees, EC members, and Board members for their contributions and closed the Semi-Annual General Body Meeting. The meeting concluded with a closing prayer