

FIRST COMMUNITY MEETING BEFORE SIC'S FORMATION

Held at Comfort Inn, 923 E 3rd Ave Spokane, WA 99202 on September 13, 2015 at 1:00 pm

About 30 members of the Indian community attended the meeting.

Minutes Prepared by: Jayesh Modha

No	Topics	Who	Vision
1	Vision	Hrishikesh (Rishi)	To provide a forum for the Spokane Indian Community to meet, interact and get to know each other. The mission is simplistic by design to ensure that it attracts as many participants as possible. We believe that a closely knit community will organically promote Cultural, Social, Art, Theatrical etc. events those are vital in keeping us connected to our roots and providing exposure to the first generation Indian-Americans. It is common for communities to get organized around a central grand vision (like building a temple) and often succeed due to the sheer size of the Indian community. However, given the transient nature of the small community in Eastern Washington it is imperative that we start with something that appeal to the majority of our community members.
2		Nandgopal	• South Asia culture association wanted to exact same thing as the vision • There are \$5000 in the fund already • 33 years ago, children were very young so they realized the need for something. • Started bhajan Group - Aruna is very good singer. • Potluck was also started. • Did it every 4th Saturday without fail. • Have brought many program, Sitar, bharat natyam, kuchi pudi dance. • Wanted to have our children know our culture and heritage. • Last event was very crowded. • We have to show our heritage to community here. • There are people who will not come due to their religion preference.
3		Vishwanath	• Two things • using the event - nothing comes out of it. • Recommend - have a Hindu Temple

			• BAPS - temple in LA looks like Taj Mahal • there were 500 volunteers fed • they had a blood drive • They had fund raising for US army • why not start the process • Let's buy a land. I think we should do that. • Have very closed non-hindu friends. • Make a list of all available Indian.
4	Tri-cities Temple	Raj	• Best example
5	Interest	Rahul	• Short term goals are easier to meet • Goal of raising 5K by a timeline
6		Vishwanath	• why not setup 503 setup • non-profit corporation is not easy to setup
7		Nishant	• Any culture activity would help to raise fund for temple • 10% of your earning should go toward religious. It could be time, money, or any activity. • IT people could design a good web site.
8		Sowmya	• My goal would be to get kids into our culture.
9		Rahul	• Didn't have a volunteer that why Balagokulam fell apart
10		Hrishikesh (Rishi)	• We don't know what • We cannot do that everybody will follow.
11	Spokane Fallfolk Festival	Sreedharani	• Nov 14th - folklore program happens every year.
12	Plan	Hrishikesh (Rishi)	• Lets meet once a month • Let us reach out to every Indian.
13		Rahul	• Make an organization
14	Website	Raj	• Maybe, build a website. • Vishwanath is willing to sponsor
15		Rahul	• Having a few events - everyone agrees. • It would be wonderful if we can do, it tax-free.

			• It can be a new organization under that umbrella. • There will be lot of volunteers
16		Vishwanath	• Issue with the SIG - without identity it will not work. • Have a financial identity
17			• Why should I donate when I know I will not be here for a long time? • Example: 2K for diwali, 2K for Holi. • If you have more money, try to put in more. • Try to take one lump sum then use fund for specific events.
18		Sree	• Basement of a church is a temple
19		Padma	• Balagokulam and other events were not failures. • I do every festival at my home every time. • Any school will happily give it
20		Rohit	• We should have some kind of engagement from the kid side. • Every Sunday there will be a Shloka classes
21		Prakash	• Really need to have organization • Database of everybody falling into this category • Meet regularly
22		Arun	• Doing something • 10 years too late may be, I'm to be blamed as well. • Important to understand why they lose interest. • Sending email on what's happening on community - we do not even do that. • We should worry about our own about losing identity • Knowing this thing is happening.
23		Shobhan	• Rent a place monthly and start with kids activity • Came from North Pole. • It does not feel like the kids have their own community here. • Make a strong foundation about
24		Shree Purohit	• Getting a community center • Kids, cultural activities, teaching the languages, cooking or anything • Anand mela in Seattle • I can volunteer to start

			Personally love to sing, music and cook
25		Sam	- Continue to have a bhajan - If there is web site, we can decide on name.
26		Sanjay	- observation about Indian culture and subculture - Spokane being a small place poses challenges - we have to come together and say Indian Culture - How we are going to come together is a challenge - I do know people who set up Indian Temple in Tri-cities. - Tri-cities had financial issues.
27		Ramu	- Should apploud Raj for doing this. - Will do everything whatever I could do the momentum.
28		Mudit	- Point out a little bit - a lot of more people are interested - Next event - open out a pole or something so they could get together. - Ideas are very good. - More participation and volunteering is good.
29		sanjay	Indians are more active on whatsapp than facebook.
30		Vishwanath	- South hill community center that they can rent to anyone. - Can we do that? - Why not we use that sree and Nandgopal has already set up? - Talk to the city about south hill center.
31		Hrishikesh (Rishi)	- The next step: what are we going to do? - Whatever you want to propose, we will facilitate that. - Propose the cost
32		Sowmya	City halls are free
33		Jayesh	Two city hall choices , Liberty Lake, South hill

Action Item:

1. Everyone send an email to friend list
2. Think about web site
3. Resource List for Indian in Spokane
4. Prakash uncle will look into South city center hall
5. Jayesh/Rishi and Raj to figure out when we can meet next time.