

Darul Arqum Islamic Center
Executive Board Meeting
Jan 10, 2010

1. Establish Quorum/Call to order. Present: Saleem Baig (Chair), Jani Abbasi, Salahuddin Syed, Khalid Boushaba, Ali Husain and Mohammed Saqer. Absent: Salman Maqsood, Imran Dotani and Abdelhamid Azzaz (Excused)
2. Br. Saleem Baig, called the meeting to order in the small multipurpose room of the Islamic Center at 12:55pm.

Guest: Samil Sermet

AGENDA

Opening Prayer: Jani Abbasi

Announcements: None

Approval of the Board meeting minutes of Nov. 7 and Dec 1, 2009.

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| 1. Committee liaison reports | None |
| 2. Financial report | Mohammed Saqer |
| 3. Imam hiring, fund raising discussion | Samil Sermet |
| 4. Fund approval for MSA dawah program | Salahuddin |
| 5. Guidelines for Khateeb | Abbasi |
| 6. Imran Dotani's resignation | Directors |
| 7. PR committee request for funds | Salahuddin |
| 8. General assembly meeting | Saleem Baig |
| 9. Answering machine | Mohammed Saqer |
| 10. Date of next meeting | Saleem Baig |
| 11. Policy on fund-raising requests | Directors |
| 12. Adjournment | Saleem Baig |

The Board approved the Dec 1, 2009 meeting minutes and Nov 7 GA meeting minutes unanimously without corrections.

1. Committee liaison reports - none.
2. Financial report – Accepted as presented by Br. Saqer with cash balance of \$14,941.60 as of Dec 31, 2009.
3. **Imam status:** Brothers Samil and Ali Husain reported that the Imam from Egypt, Gamal Mohammed, is going to be a paid imam who would require sponsorship of a US visa. Based on the information given to the Board earlier, it had an impression that the Egyptian Government would pay for the Imam salary and travel expenses and the Islamic Center was supposed to have taken care of only his health insurance and living expenses. This new information changes lots of things. The Chair thanked brothers Husain and Samil for their work.

Although references were checked and looked great, the board concluded it was not appropriate at this time to pursue an outside candidate if we have to work on visa sponsorship and also pay him a salary for living expenses. The cost of hiring such an imam is greater than hiring an Imam from within the US and with less hassle.

The Board agreed to present afresh the issue of hiring an Imam for the Islamic Center at one of the Fridays after the Khutbah and right before the Fard Prayer. An announcement will be made to pose two questions to Friday congregation as follows:

A. How many of them think it is necessary to hire an Imam for the Islamic Center? B. To Fill out a pledge form supporting the Imam hiring and return it within one week to the Islamic Center. The Executive Board will evaluate those forms to determine if it's feasible to employ an Imam. Following the community response, further appropriate action will be taken. A financial statement will be posted on Imam fundraising activity every month with a goal of having, at least, one year of expenses covered for the imam hiring expenses (about \$60,000). It was decided that funds should be first secured for this purpose.

The Chair merged the Imam Search and the Imam fund raising Committees into one Committee, called the Imam search and Fund raising committee (ISFRC). The Chair also appointed the following persons to take care of Imam Selection, fund-raising and for all its related matters. They are Salahuddin Syed (Chair), Ali Husain, Syed Azam, Samil Sermet, Mohammed Saqer, Sisters Nermin Sabry and Beth Sermet. The ISFRC can be expanded if necessary.

4. **A request from the MSA** was received to pay for the honorarium of Joshua Evans. Earlier the Islamic Center had approved \$ 800.00 for last MSA program for inviting Sh.Yestes. As he cancelled his trip, the funds were not needed and the ISU (GSB) took care of the expenses. At the Chair's suggestion, the Board unanimously approved \$ 300 towards paying an honorarium for the speaker, Joshua Evans, on January 30, 2010. A halaqa by the guest speaker will be arranged after Isha Prayer on Saturday, January 30. A 40 min talk with Q and A session for all members of the community will be conducted at the Islamic Center.
5. **Khateeb guidelines:** Guidelines are being prepared by Jani Abbasi and will be approved later.
6. **Br. Imran Dothani's resignation** was discussed. The Board decided unanimously not to accept the resignation. The members of the board expect him to attend its future meetings. The Chair will inform brother Dotani of this decision.
7. PR committee request for funds of \$50 were approved by email votes and confirmed by the members present.
8. **GA meeting:** Since we have not been able to establish quorum at several GA meetings, the board discussed at length how to achieve this goal. After much discussion, it was agreed that a wide use of internet distribution of the proposed amendments be undertaken. This will give plenty of opportunity to the eligible voters to study those amendments and take action on them.

Another suggestion was made to distribute the proposed amendments. to the members on a chosen Friday after prayer with a request to return them signed. Clear instructions will be given to the Friday attendees on what needs to be done and how to submit the signed forms. A member of the board will take the signed papers at particular times at the Islamic Center. These were the two ideas that were kicked around. Additional suggestions and ideas need to be discussed at the future meetings. The Board unanimously amended Section 7.1(a) as Amendment No. 12. The Chair and the Secretary will prepare the required write-up.

9. **Answering machine backlog:** The following persons were designated to check answering machine in the Islamic Center Office for different days of the week. Friday – Salahuddin, Sunday – S. Baig, Monday – Abbasi, Tuesday – Khalid B, Wednesday – Ali Husain, Thursday – M Saqer. Also it is requested by Br. Saqer that the in-coming mail should not be opened by anyone, especially the one with designated names on it.

10. Next board meeting: February 7 but later changed to February 14 at about 4:30 p.m or the Board can meet after Zuhr if Sunday school is not scheduled.

11. Fund raising guidelines – approved as presented with a change that the Chair contact the RA Comt. Chair to select the date and time for the requesting Organization to come to the Islamic Center for their fund-raising.

Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Salahuddin Syed
Executive Board Secretary.