

**Darul Arqum Islamic Center**  
**Executive Board Meeting minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 30, 2010**

Agenda:

Establish Quorum

Opening Prayer

Announcements:

Approval of May 24, 2010 meeting minutes

Treasurer Report

Standing Committee Reports

Propose date for Board Election

Ramadan Preparations

Policy on funds raised by visitors

Landscaping and other P & B Committee issues

ISFRC Report

Old Business (Podium)

Quorum established and meeting called to order at 7:20pm.

Attendees: Saleem Baig (Chair), Mohammed Al-Saqer, Abdelhamid Azzaz, Khalid Boushaba, Ali Husain, Salman Maqsood), Jani Abbasi, Salahuddin Syed.

Absent: Imran Dotani

**Opening Prayer** by Br. Khalid.

**Announcements:** none

**Treasurer report:** Br. Saqer noted that prior to 1/04 there is a lack of information about *zakat* and *sadaqah* deposits. This information is not available in the minutes from the prior three treasurers. Previously, any deposits made as *zakat* were used explicitly and entirely for this purpose. Br. Saqer proposed that a deposit from the general fund be made to the *zakat* account to sure up the accounting. This proposal was unanimously approved. The prior discrepancy noted about the initial account balance was sorted out.

**Standing Committee Reports:** All committees were reminded that the annual year-end reports will be due after Ramadan. This includes a report about the Islamic school. The Religious Affairs Committee will prepare *khateeb* schedule.

**Propose date for Board Elections:**

The Board unanimously approved the motion that Br. Salahuddin will prepare an up to date membership list and an updated "Nomination Form" for the next election and present it to the Board in the first week of August.

The Board election will be held one week after the Eid-ul-Fitr potluck dinner.

The Nomination Committee will verify that each nominee is a member in good standing, and he/she has fulfilled the requirements as outlined in the By-laws. The Board unanimously approved the following members as the Nomination Committee: Br. Mohammad Al-Saqer, Sr. Sumya Al-Saqer, and Br. Salahuddin Syed.

**Ramadan Preparations:** The Board previously approved who will lead Taraweeh prayers (three paid Imams from Des Moines). The Islamic Center will be steam cleaned in the first week of August. Brother Ali Husain will take care of it.

**Policy on funds raised by visitors:** The Board unanimously approved the following system to clarify donations made for outside visitors. On the days that visitors are fundraising, there will be a separate, well-marked donation box placed next to the regular donation box in the Prayer Hall. An announcement will be made regarding which box to use for donations to the Islamic Center and to the outside fund-raising project. Funds collected for outside donation will be compiled and a single check will be issued from the Islamic Center as previously approved by the Board.

**Landscaping and other Property and Building Committee Issues:**

The Committee recommended to the Board that blinds not be placed in the main prayer hall. The cost of \$400 would not justify any savings in heating and cooling. Furthermore, the blinds would not add to the aesthetics.

Bids for custodial services were obtained from 3 providers. C & J Cleaners provided a bid for 5-6 hours of cleaning per week at a cost of \$400/month. The Board approved cleaning once weekly for approximately \$200/month. The Committee will obtain estimates for this.

Weeding and placement of more stones (unfinished business) on areas landscaped last fall will be headed by landscaping manager, Br. Azher -Ul-Haq. 10 tons of stone and 8 tons of mulch will be ordered by Br. Baig at an approximate cost of \$1500 for this project. The Board approved the cost of landscaping. The north side will be weeded and mulch placed over black landscaping fabric. Hastas and other plants will be added as appropriate. The unauthorized tomato plants, placed by an unknown person on the south side, will be moved further south. Brother Azher will select a date for this project and seek help from other brothers.

The site of the current garbage dumpster is inappropriate. The Board decided to obtain a quote for regular weekly garbage pick up of a 96 gallon container instead of having a dumpster that gets emptied periodically. In Ramadan, there would be two pick ups per week. This way, the fence could be removed and the cemented area could be used for bicycle or motorcycle parking. The front view, after removing the unsightly dumpster fence, would be aesthetically more pleasing for the visitors since the garbage container is currently located right next to the Islamic Center main entrance.

The blue spruce on the south side died from a Rhizosphaera needle cast disease. The tree was cut down and now needs to be disposed of without spreading the disease via the fallen needles.

Br. Jani Abbasi will obtain estimates for converting prayer hall ballasts with compact fluorescent bulbs.

ISFRC Report: The Board tentatively agreed with Br. Salahuddin's request to offer Imam Mahmoud Guma from Egypt an imam position. No detailed discussion about a salary and benefits package took place since it was getting very close to the Maghreb prayer time. However, brother Salahudin thought a package in the mid-forties would be desirable.

Visa paperwork will be started by Br. Salahuddin. The Chair also directed Br. Salahuddin and the ISFRC members to intensify their fund-raising efforts for the Imam Project.

Old Business: Podium for khateeb has been ordered by Br. Salman Maqsood and it will be delivered in three weeks.

Additional Items:

Br. Saqer brought to the Board's attention the Friday Khutba that Kutaiba Abbasi gave two weeks ago despite knowing that some members had objected to his khutba last year and he was not invited again. Br. Saqer noted that Br. Jani Abbasi had sent an email prior to this khutba that only mentioned someone from the Masjid of Arlington, Texas will be giving the khutba and doing the fund-raising. The khutba was actually for raising funds for the Muslim Legal Fund, not for the masjid in Arlington, Texas. Brother Jani Abbasi said that he did not know which person the Arlington Masjid was going to send to Ames for fund-raising purposes. He did not hide anything from the Board. However, brother Saqer thought there was possibly a conflict of interest in this area.

After some discussion, Br. Saqer proposed a motion that Br. Jani Abbasi not be allowed to prepare the list of future khateeb. The motion was seconded by Brother Husain. The motion was approved by a 5 member majority. Br. Jani Abbasi has already made the khateeb list until December. This list will be reviewed and approved by the Board at its next meeting.

Br. Abdelhamid Azzaz praised the religious knowledge of and the delivery of khutba by Kutaiba Abbasi. He said he liked the khutba delivered by Kutaiba Abbasi very much and that Kutaiba recites Quran beautifully. Brother Azzaz put the motion on the floor (seconded by Br. Khalid) that Kutaiba Abbasi be invited and allowed to give khutbas at our Islamic Center in the future. The motion passed with 4 ayes, 2 abstains, and 1 nays.

Next meeting is proposed for the last weekend of July.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ali Husain (acting Secretary) since Br. Salahuddin could only attend the latter part of the meeting.