



MASJID AL-ISLAM

Dallas, TX

THE BEACON OF LIGHT, COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

A Religious Non-Profit 501(c) (3) Organization COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES Of Sunday, October 2, 2022

Attendees on File

- Br. Amir Makin Hamzah opened with Dua.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting of June 26, 2022 were accepted as read. (Motion by: Shahidah Akhtab; Second by: Aasiyah AbdalRahim)

Financial Update: (Reported by Ishmael Fahmi, Treasurer)

- The Balance Sheet as of October 1, 2022 was presented and discussed. The sum of all accounts totaled \$2,466,191.60. All donations are down considerably. The annual P&L report will be submitted by the end of year.

New Masjid Updates: (Presented by Isam Alim, Architect, Aliman Gonzalez Associates (AGA), Inc. (via zoom))

Updates on the Permitting Process:

-Civil engineers must get the City's approval for civil improvement first. This process started months ago. Unfortunately, coordinated through COVID issues and the City of Dallas' bureaucracy to get the process done, continued to be extremely slow. We have received several iterations of comments and responses from the civil engineers. We are making huge progress but still a few things to be ironed out before the civil engineering site design is complete. The civil package includes everything from the ground down, i.e., utilities, easement, sanitary sewers, location of driveways, pavements, parking, and everything required to connect the water. This is all a part of the civil and is standard for a project anywhere.

-The civil engineers per the City of Dallas feedback changed the location of entry points to the domestic water supply, fire sprinklers, entry point to building, and sanitary departures from the building. These changes have been made to the building design as well to save time. Once the civil engineering work is approved the plats will be officially recorded and finalized.

-Then we can submit the structural designs which is the building (masjid) itself for a permit. Our plan is, Inshaa Allah, as soon as the civil gets approved, we will turn in our civil/site plans followed up closely by our building plans for full and complete approval. We will then consult with MAI on whether to go ahead and bid for prices to retain a licensed, bonded general construction contractor. Prices will be submitted to MAI for evaluation. Once decisions are made on pricing, a construction schedule will take shape.

Responses to Members Questions:

-We cannot get a building permit or do anything to a building until the civil package is approved and plats are officially recorded.

-The plan referencing a 18,000 sq ft building with a prayer hall of 1,000 sq ft has been submitted to the City from day one—even before the platting process was submitted.

-Minimum required parking is determined by the size of the prayer hall.

-Reducing the square footage of the building by 5,000 sq ft will change the design tremendously while saving very little in cost. Per the Cost Estimators consulted earlier in this process, the smaller the building the higher the cost per square foot.

-It is suggested that we use the label "fellowship/multipurpose". Other terms will generate more required parking.

-It is hard to determine the estimated time of completion. One group of questions with City reviewers has taken 3 months. We cannot make the City move faster. We were ahead of the game but the City has made many changes which has caused the redesigning of the mechanical plumbing.

Committees & Imam Status:

- *Zakat Committee:* (Reported by Shahidah Akhtab, Chair)

- The Zakat committee continues to assist those in need of help. Members are asked to "be kind" when requesting assistance. Alhumdulillah, Allah has allowed this committee to assist so many persons in need. Since June 21st we have disbursed approximately \$62,752.34 for food, clothes, housing, auto repairs, medications, textbooks, tuition, gas and bus passes.

- *Hospitality Committee:* (Reported by Ameenah Sabour (in absence of Jasmin Ali, Chair)

- The Hospitality committee's past events include a Fish Fry, Mental Health Check-in, Eid Al-Adha & Eid Al-Fitr celebrations and Ramadan activities. Upcoming event is a Fall Fest, November 2, 2022, 1-4pm. A proposal will be submitted to the Board and flier creation will be requested. Details will be determined at the upcoming meeting. It is the committee's hope to continue to provide programming that brings the community together while providing support to the masjid.

- *EFG Updates:* (Reported by Faiz Quraishi, Chair)

- Since Ramadan, \$30,000 has been raised. The total amount raised for the year is \$391,000.
- Current goal is \$400,000 by the end of FY 22. Only \$10,000 to go to reach this goal.
- NTX Giving Day – Raised \$10,000; \$15,000 below last year
- Echo Media, a Digital Marketing Firm (recommended by Yaqeen Institute) has been onboard since August to provide a monthly package of flyers and advertisements
- All committee chairs should be using masjid emails. This will allow us to keep all masjid info together in the masjid's domain
- You can help: Like and Subscribe to the MAI Facebook and share events with others in your personal spaces.

-*Imam Status* - Imam Muhammad Abdul-Jami:

- Masjid is open for Dhuhr everyday; Maghrib Mon-Thurs; Fajr Saturdays and Sundays
- Seerah classes are on Saturdays. Classes are suspended until 10/29th.
- DOD is 11/5/2022. It has taken 2 ½ months to get approval from the City to use the MLK Center. Event will be face to face this year. MAI can sign up today. Formal invitations for former volunteers will be sent out on Wednesday.
- MECCA school will begin 10/23/2022. Talib Coburn, coordinator, was injured in a fall and ruptured muscles in his knee.
- Shaykh Mikael Smith's third monthly class was last week.
- Open for any ideas for events that would fall under the Imam's office.
- Mix & Match event was held. Persons were not invited if there were no matches.
- Per Islam, some criteria for brothers to get married include providing a dowry, housing, food and utilities.
- Anger Management workshop will be presented by Sajda Pitre on October 16

-*Administrator* – Stanley Lewis:

- Referencing Article 9.1.2 - By laws are accessible on the website and should be used for information.
- All events held at the masjid must go through the Administrator for facility approval
- “We have to get out this building – help us to get out of this building”

-*Beacon of Light (BOL)* – Khadijeh Abdullah:

- Currently, no plans are being made to provide food service inside the BOL on Saturdays and Sundays
- Plans are being made to hand out repackaged foods during the week. Funding is already available. Volunteers will be needed to compile these packages. Will advertise on Facebook for monetary donations for the pantry and for specific food donations for the homeless.

Open Issues/Questions/Discussions:

- We have had several electricians in the past to address the problem with the breakers. Per Oncor, “not enough electricity is coming into the building”. The breakers are old. The lighting issue is not a fire problem. When the breakers trip, this kills the power, hence lessening the fire hazards.

-The backroom walls are collapsing from the outside. Inside the roof is falling in. The room is not usable. The estimated cost to repair the backroom is in excess of \$40,000. Members have been warned not to use the backroom.

-Something should be done to assist zakat workers with tablets or phones to avoid using their personal phones.

-Sisters need accessibility to get in and out of the building. The masjid's front entrance ramp will be made available for sisters to enter the masjid.

-An independent financial review is requested, if financially feasible.

-The musallah will remain in place for a retail business. The community has to determine what type of business will be housed here.

Imam Muhammad Abdul-Jami closed with Dua

Meeting Officiated by Amir Makin Hamzah, Chair
Minutes Prepared by Ameenah Sabour, Board Secretary