

Answers to 4 questions raised by Gurbarkash Singh during Dec 18, 2011 Open Meeting (Harbhajan Singh Nayar—President 2011)

1. What is the problem in the Old Darbar Hall that we are trying to fix and who does it benefit?

The problem is not with the old Darbar Hall. The problem is that GSSA does not have a library that functions like a library should. We currently only have a storage area with book stacks, and that also, until very recently, books were in storage boxes in the storage area, along with mouse droppings and a ton of garbage. A lot of books were damaged.

The objective is to have a library that is inviting, user friendly, safe for people coming into the library, organized for books, journal, reference materials & newspapers, easy to find needed material, easy take out and return process and continuously maintained as a high quality library. GSSA has set aside the needed budget of \$8000 in 2011 for the Library Project.

We have currently available one very committed and highly focused Project Leader who is willing to volunteer to lead this high quality Library Project in 4 phases over a period of about 4-6 months. That person is Geeta Kaur Ahluwalia. The intent is to allow her to form a team that will support and assist her through out the 4 phases i.e. until the project is fully completed. The 1st phase is::

35 feet of the 55 feet current partition wall extended by 5 feet in the North direction. It will have two doors and steel & not wood for fire safety reasons. The partition wall is only about half way between the floor and ceiling as it currently is. The wall will be "bolted" to the floor.

It is WC intent to start the process to build the Library as quickly as possible starting with expanding the wall.

At the end of about 4 months, the library will be useful in a gradually increasing way for GSSA children, adults & seniors and for non-Sikhs from neighboring school, colleges, universities and neighboring communities in general.

Some people ask Why Now????? Question should be: Why not now? If it can be done today then why postpone to tomorrow. No time like the present. Of course proper planning and involvement of affected parties need to be done before the actual start of the implementation process.

2. What is the urgency of fixing in comparison to other priorities?

Urgency is because we want to accommodate Khalsa School's request of *no-disruption to classes*. This can be achieved *now*, since Khalsa School is in recess for the holidays around Christmas and New Year. BKS is full on board with the time line of this project. No other known priority is being compromised.

3. What options were considered/discussed before deciding on the structural changes including moving of walls and moving of the Keertan Stage?

There have been 60 plus emails over a period of two months. Lengthy emails. The WC, Khalsa School and members of the Library sub-committee including Gurbarkash Singh were part of the discussion from Day One. All options were considered about the wall expansion, and agreed upon by the high majority in the email list.

Please note that the existing wall or the proposed expanded wall is **NOT a STRUCTURAL WALL**. It is non-load bearing partial partition wall that is "bolted" to the floor. No load bearing wall or pillar or column is being touched or moved in the scope of the Library project.

Stage moving, eliminating etc is not part of the scope of this project. The only other part of this project is to have two doors instead of one and replace wood between the sheet rock plates with steel. This will provide fire safety in the future considering we even do not have water sprinklers in the hall for fire safety.

4. When was the approval of the structural changes taken from the Sangat?

Man many decisions related to the operation, maintenance and future development of GSSA and its assets are made during a day, week, month or year. Our Constitution guides us. The three elected bodies by the Sangat are given the responsibility to carry out the different types of functions.

The question that should be asked is: What is the decision making process for something like the Library Project?

The Library Project was initiated by the WC and went through the normal budget approval and informing the Sangat process. How it proceeded after that is outlined in the "Background" section in the attached 3-page document.

Petition filed by some Sangat members clearly indicated that at least one part of the project—namely extension of the 35 feet of the 55 feet partition wall did not meet their approval as Sangat members and requested a special Sangat meeting on December 18. Many differing views and opinions were presented during the meeting attended by about 35-40 Sangat members. Many opinions were outside the scope of the project.

Keeping in mind that we cannot satisfy each and every opinion, the question is how do we move forward?. The decision making process that is being adopted for this particular project is in the attached document.

Bhagat Kabir Ji, Panna 1371, Line 16. Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji

Kabīr kāl karantā abēh kar ab kartā su'e tāl.

Kabeer, that which you have to do tomorrow - do it today instead; and that which you have to do now - do it immediately!