1 Community Need and Support for the Project

Our community comprises of immigrants arriving from 1960s and their children born in Canada as well as new immigrants arriving more recently. To get acclimatised to the Canadian cultural and social conditions in general and harsh winter conditions in particular requires a concerted effort on the part of newcomers and any help that offered is a great boon and enable them productive members of the Canadian system.

In this respect Hindu Society of Manitoba inc. (HSM) was registered in 1970 as a non-profit organization with mission to preserve the religion, heritage, languages and cultural values of the Hindu community in Manitoba with aim to promote multi-cultural and multi-ethnic values for harmonious relations.

The present property at 854 Ellice Avenue a two-level building built in 1950 was bought by the Hindu Society and remodeled as a cultural facility in 1979. It has gone through several renovations since then and has been serving the community all these years living up to its intended objects. However, with increased usage and arrival of new immigrants it has been recognized for some time that additional features are needed to enlarge, where possible, enhance and improve accessibility and safety features and code compliance for a public place.

The HSM has become a major player, prime focal and meeting place where the newcomers meet others who arrived before them and went through hurdles similar process of orientation and appreciation of the Canadian society and are ready to offer a helping hand. This enables the newcomers to appreciate and help with their needs. In this respective this facility has been serving the needs of the community for over 40 years.

The facility is used throughout the week and has a consistent number of people coming on a regular basis. Meals are regularly prepared by volunteers and served for all visitors. Our facilities provide an open place for young people to learn about their culture from the elderly and provides all members of the community with a safe place to congregate.

2 Community consultation, if applicable (surveys, open houses, etc.)

With increased usage and arrival of new immigrants on regular basis, it has been recognized for some time that additional features are needed to enlarge, where possible, to enhance and improve accessibility, safety features and code compliance.

Following analysis of different options, such as renovation of basement alone, renovation of foyer alone, renovation of basement and foyer, instead of renovation

constructing a new facility were considered; and renovation of both floors was found the most cost-effective option. HSM engaged a Consultant (Architect) who prepared with selected option, Schematic drawings (with different arrangements of floor plans for the selected, location of elevator, kitchen rearrangement, compliance with code) which was followed by extensive discussion vis-à-vis cost implementation, and prepared preliminary cost estimate.

HSM conducted “Geotechnical Survey”, “Assessment of Hazardous Materials”, obtained “Land Survey” and “Land Certificate”. Subsequently Engineering and Architectural Drawings were prepared and submitted to the city and received “Planning Permit” and “Building Permit”.

3 Scope of work

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Congestion in the lobby area: Additional open space is required to relieve congestion in the foyer area and more space for accommodating winter gear and shoes.

Congestion in the kitchen: Additional work area is required to improve safety, enable easy access and improve flow in the kitchen area.

Accessibility to all building levels: Provide a three-stop elevator enabling universal accessibility to street/grade level, main floor, and basement.

Accessibility to washrooms: Provide in the basement and main floor, for male and female, washrooms that are wheelchair accessible.

4 Cost estimates/ quotes

Architectural Drawings were sent to three potential Bidders (Construction Companies) and from among them HSM selected “NTSI” based on Cost, Expertise, Schedule and Project Understanding, at their Bid Price of $1,616,424.00 including Contingency but excluding taxes. HSM also incur cost of $104,000 for architectural fees and city permit fees. Whole project cost will be around 1,720,000.

5 Project schedule

The Project planning started during summer of 2021 however, with lapse during Covid-19, serious work resumed during summer of 2022, and construction started in fall of 2023. The Project is expected to be completed by 31st March 2024.

6. Community Consultation

HSM after consulting with various cultural group and members felt the need for renovated facility. With our ageing membership brought the need for wheelchair access; easy access to main floor and basement; with improved environmental awareness members are demanding environmentally friendly facility. This is a project in our minds for a long time, among them the entrance foyer, kitchen for enhanced safety, elevator for seniors and wheelchair accessible washrooms.

7. Summary

There are many new immigrants to Winnipeg who use these facilities and resources available. This enables them to integrate into the Canadian surroundings and living conditions. Beside the economic boost to the area, it also provides mental and emotional support for to the population and is great boon to the area. It is also a meeting place for community that was especially important with the isolation that was felt during pandemic. Our facilities are used for many cultural events .The project is aligned with the priority around inclusion- Hindu culture is based on the principle of non-violence and inclusion.