

203

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SHRI RAKESH MEHTA, CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI, HELD ON 31.1.2008 AT 1730 HRS IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY

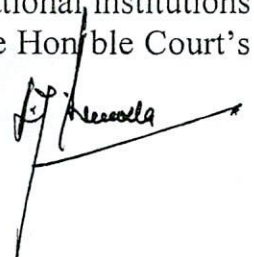
The following attended the meeting:

1	Shri V.V.Bhat, Pr. Secretary (Finance & Planning)	-Member
2	Shri. J.K.Dadoo, Secretary (Environment & Forests)	-Member
3	Shri Ravi Aggarwal, Srishti	-Member
4	Shri Ajay Mahajan, Kalpvriksha	-Member
5	Shri Suresh Bhandari, DC (Karol Bagh), MCD	-Spl. Invitee
6	Smt Kamal Preet, DCF(HQ)	-Spl. Invitee
7	Shri Rajesh Shobhanakumar, DCF(West)	-Spl. Invitee
8	Shri Hanuman Singh, ACP, Traffic	-Spl. Invitee
9	Smt Poonam Dewan, Dy. Director (Landscape), DDA	-Spl. Invitee
10	Dr. R.S.Chohan, Dy. Director (Horti), DDA	-Spl. Invitee
11	Shri V.S.Jainth, Dy. Director (Horti), DDA	-Spl. Invitee
12	Smt Renu Suri, Off. Principal, Manavsthali School	-Spl. Invitee
13	Shri D.M.Narang, Representing R- Block, Rajendra Nagar	-Spl. Invitee
14	Shri R. Mahendroo, Representing R- Block, Rajendra Nagar	-Spl. Invitee
15	Shri R Sadana, Representing R- Block, Rajendra Nagar	-Spl. Invitee
16	Shri D.M.Shukla, Conservator of Forests	-Member-Secretary

The Vice Chairman, DDA could not attend the meeting due to his pressing prior commitments

The Chief Secretary & Chairman, Ridge Management Board (RMB) welcoming the Members and Special Invitees explained the purpose of convening the Special meeting and requested the Member Secretary, RMB, to explain the background of the case. The Member Secretary giving the background of the case explained the sequence of events as under:-

- i) The Civil Writ Petition No. 1461/81 of Rajender Nagar Educational Society (Manavsthali School) for passage through ridge was dismissed by Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on 17.11.1982.
- ii) Aggrieved by the orders, their appeal filed in Hon'ble Supreme Court for plying of school buses through ridge was disallowed by the Hon'ble Court but permitted the appellant to approach RMB for use of *kucha* road on 24.07.1997.
- iii) RMB in its meeting held on 09.06.1999 directed the educational institutions and association to settle the matter keeping the spirit of the Hon'ble Court's direction.



- fu
- iv) Secretary (E&F) in the meeting held on 02.09.1999 suggested that *kucha* road through the ridge can be used by school children but not for plying of buses/ vehicles.
 - v) RMB, in its meeting held on 04.11.1999, did not agree to the suggestion made by Secretary (E&F) and decided that Shri K.B. Rajoria, Engineer-in-Chief, PWD. Govt. of Delhi shall visit the area and submit his recommendations.
 - vi) Residents Welfare Association, Rajender Nagar, again approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 02.08.2000 in I.A. No.1317 in WP (C) 4677/85 for passage for the school children.
 - vii) RMB, in its meeting held on 11.08.2000, rejected the appeal as the area had already been planted up with tall saplings.
 - viii) RMB again rejected the appeal of Rajender Nagar RWA as referred to by the office of LG/ Hon'ble CM in its meeting held on 12.01.2001.
 - ix) IA no. 1317 filed by Rajender Nagar RWA was dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 12.04.2001.
 - x) Rajender Nagar RWA again moved the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in CWP No.10173/2006 for the passage through ridge which was dismissed on 23.11.2007 with the permission to approach RMB for redressal of their grievances.

The Chairman, thereafter, requested Rajender Nagar Resident Welfare Association to make a presentation highlighting the issues requiring intervention of the RMB for resolution of their grievances.

Shri Mahendroo of Rajender Nagar Residents Welfare Association made a presentation explaining the inconvenience caused to the residents and aged people due to parking of school buses of JJ Tytler and Manavsthal School in the colony and cars/ other vehicles using colony roads for dropping and picking up of the school children. He also informed that the situation had become still worse with the closure of approx. 350 Mtr. passage through the ridge used earlier by J.J. Tytler School by the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and requested RMB to consider the request of RWA Rajinder Nagar allowing the schools to use *kucha* path to the ridge with a parking bay on Ram Nath Viji Marg for their safety.

ACP Traffic, Delhi Police informed that the schools must ensure parking of their buses within the school premises as done by other schools in the capital. He

further added that slight change in the school timings would reduce the traffic congestion in the colony to a great extent.

Shri Ravi Aggarwal, Member, RMB also pointed out that in view of the petition/ appeal of the petitioners having been rejected twice each by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and thrice by RMB, yet any attempt to allow use of ridge land for such purpose at this stage would open flood gates of similar requests from other quarters and would be against the very spirit of the directions of the Apex Court in M.C. Mehta vs UOI in C.W.P. No.4677/85 for maintaining the ridge in its pristine form for environmental considerations.

After detailed deliberations, the Chief Secretary & Chairman, RMB desired that in view of the decision of the Hon'ble High Court's order dated 23.11.2007 in CWP No.10173/2006, the issue of use of ridge land as passage be re-visited by a Committee to be headed by the Pr. Secretary (Finance and Planning) and assisted by Conservator of Forests & Member Secretary, RMB, Shri Ravi Aggarwal of Toxic Links, Shri Ajay Mahajan of *Kalpvrksh*, Member, RMB, Smt. Renu Suri, Officiating Principal, Manavsthal School and Shri R. Mahendroo, Rajender Nagar RWA, which shall visit the area and submit its findings to the RMB along with the photographs taking into consideration the decision of the then Secretary (E&F) as mentioned in the minutes of the meeting convened by him on 02.09.1999 and the report of Shri K.B. Rajoria as also other relevant aspects for making an appropriate reference to the Hon'ble High Court for its decision.

The meeting ended with the thanks to the Chair.

**GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
& MEMBER SECRETARY RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD,
A BLOCK, 2ND FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, ITO, NEW DELHI.**

No.F.11(26)/PA/DCF/95/Vol.VIII/6781-6803

Dated: 18, February, 2008

Distribution :-

All Members of Ridge Management Board.

Copy for information to:-

1. The Commissioner, MCD, Town Hall, New Delhi.
2. The Engineer-in-Chief, PWD, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Curzon Road, Barracks, New Delhi-01.

3. The Dy. Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Police Headquarters, MSO Building, I.P.Estate, New Delhi.
4. The General Secretary, R-Block Welfare Association (Regd), R-814-B, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-60 for information and necessary action.
5. The Principal, J.D. Tytler School, R-Block, New Rajender Nagar, New Delhi for similar action as (4) above.
6. The Principal, Manavsthali School, R-Block, New Rajender Nagar, New Delhi for similar action as (4) above.
7. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, Headquarters/West, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

D. Shukla
(D.M.Shukla) 2
Conservator of Forests &
Member-Secretary, RMB