

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON 5.3.97 AT 5.00 P.M. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY? GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI.

A meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held on 5.3.97 at 5.00 P.M. under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. The list of the participants is at Annexure-I. Following agenda items were discussed:

1. Strengthening of watch & ward by the Land Managing Agencies:-

Member Secretary briefed the Board that some instances of re-encroachment in the Central and south Central Ridge have come to the notice and concerned agencies were requested to get it cleared immediately.

The Chief Secretary emphasised that there is a need to keep maximum vigil and strengthen the watch & ward to prevent the encroachment/ re-encroachment of the ridge areas.

The progress of fencing done by various Land Managing Agencies was reviewed. The Member Secretary informed that the stay order has been vacated at Mehrauli & Kishan Garh as informed by DDA officials during the inspection. Chief-Secretary requested the Principal Commissioner, DDA to get the area vacated and fencing be completed immediately which could not be completed so far due to stay order. AS regards the Central Ridge, Director Hort. CPWD informed that fencing has been completed except in the areas retrieved from various educational institutions which is likely to be completed soon. Likewise DDA officials informed that land retrieved from

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Mahila Ashram & Gurudawara Nanak Darbar behind Rajinder Nagar in the Central Ridge has already been fenced.

While reviewing the fencing work carried out by MCD in South Central Ridge, the Chief-Secretary observed that the progress is unsatisfactory in Mehrauli Village. Director(Hort.) MCD informed that fencing could not be completed in view of the stay order of high Court and he has handed over the copy of the High Court's stay order to Member Secretary who, in turn, informed that this has not been received and a copy be sent immediately for taking the action urgently. During the visit of the area by the Member Secretary, it was observed that re-encroachment has started in the area. Director (Hort.) MCD indicated that encroachment could be removed in the past from 7 acre out of 12.5 acre of land and same was inspected by Chief-Secretary also. Commissioner, MCD promised to look into the matter. Chief Secretary further desired that Director (Hort.) MCD will prepare the write-up indicating the factual position of the area for further action by the Ridge Management Board.

2. Removal of encroachment/re-encroachment:  
(a) Central Ridge

The Member Secretary briefed the Board about re-encroachment behind Birla Mandir and two houses which are to be demolished by L&DO and then the area of 7.5 acres to be handed over to CPWD by L&DO. Since the removal of encroachment has been unduly delayed, the Chief Secretary desired that the letter be written at his level to Secretary, Ministry of Urban Affairs.

The Member Secretary informed that the management of Baba Asha Ramji temple has written a letter to Secretary, Ridge Management Board threatening the dire consequences in case the 40 feet wide passage is not provided. Member Secretary further briefed the Board that the passage of 6 feet wide has been given as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Chief Secretary desired that we should abide by the orders of the Supreme Court and he further requested the Development Commissioner to issue suitable directions to local SDM & SHO to maintain strong vigil over the area so that vehicles do not enter inside the ridge after breaking the fencing.

(b) Northern Ridge:

Development Commissioner informed that DDA was allowing movement of construction material in this ridge for construction by PAAM through people. Member Secretary informed that construction material has been removed from the ridge after Development Commissioner has written a D.O. letter to Vice Chairman, DDA and now the boundary wall is being shifted as decided in the meetings of Ridge Management Board earlier.

The Chief Secretary desired that boundary wall should be shifted as early as possible and area should be kept clean and watch & ward should be strengthened to prevent encroachment and misuse of the ridge area.

(c) South Central Ridges:

Member Secretary briefed the Board that there are four temples and one petrol pump still left in the area vacated by CRPF. Chief-Secretary indicated that this issue be taken up at his level with DG, CRPF. This area also

has one agriculture field & one milk dairy for which the stay has been vacated recently as indicated by DDA officials. As indicated earlier in agenda item No. 1, the DDA would retrieve these areas and fence them properly.

Member Secretary informed the board that temporary structure and some marble shops are again coming up in the area which was cleared up previously on the orders of Supreme Court. This area has to be kept green as shown in the DDA master plan & falls in the Ridge. Chief Secretary requested the Principal Commissioner that the area should be cleared immediately and it should be maintained as green without deviation from DDA master plan.

- (3) Chief Secretary observed that handing over/taking over of areas vacated as per Supreme Court orders should be taken over timely and compliance be sent to Ridge Management Board for apprising the factual position to the apex court.
- (4) Chief Secretary observed that many areas in the Ridges have been taken over after the last monsoon; hence programme for their afforestation during 1997-98 monsoon be drawn up by land managing agencies to maintain the ecology of the Ridge areas.

Review of the minutes of the meeting held on 25.12.1996.

1. Meat shop near Transport Authority:

Director (Hort.) DDA informed that the owner of meat shop near Transport Authority is not ready to shift to the alternate site.

Chief Secretary requested the DDA to write a letter to the owner of the meat shop by giving reasonable time to shift to the alternate site & in case of non-compliance, the meatshop owner should be evicted from the ridge.

2. Encroachment by Maurice Nagar Police Station:

After detailed deliberations it was felt that the police post is not located presently at the suitable place and effort should be made to shift it to Vijay Nagar. However, Chief Secretary indicated that he will discuss it in the law & order meeting to be taken by Lt. Governor on 7th March, 1997.

3. Temple in Sanjay Van:

Since the encroachment has not yet been removed in Sanjay Van, Chief Secretary requested Principal Commissioner, DDA to look into the matter immediately and get the encroachment removed.

4. Construction of boundary pillars at Delhi-Haryana Border :

The Development Commissioner briefed the Ridge Management Board that revenue officials of Haryana Government have raised some objection on the boundary demarcated by Survey of India; hence they are not confirming boundary demarcation given by Survey of India. Hence, Chief Secretary requested the Development Commissioner to prepare a paper including other inter state matters also, so that such inter state issues can be taken up with Chief Secretary, Haryana.

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5. Closure of approach road to Tytler School from Ridge side.

Member Secretary informed that the inspection was carried out and with the approval of the Chief Secretary a report was sent to the Govt. advocate to place the stand of the Ridge Management Board on a special leave petition of Rajinder Nagar education Society. Again the Block Welfare Association of Rajinder Nagar has submitted a representation which will be coming up for hearing in another bench of the Supreme Court. The representation of the association was deliberated upon and it was decided that passage could not be allowed from the ridge area as this would divide the ridge artificially in four parts making the protection of the ridge difficult and posing threat to the ecology of the ridge. Moreover there is already sufficient existing metalled road passing through the vicinity of Manavsthi School from Shanker Road crossing as well as from other side where buses can easily ply.

6. Taking over the Gaon Sabha Land:

Development Commissioner informed that due to the MCD elections the revenue staff was busy. However, Dy. Commissioner (South) has chalked out the day to day programme so that the handing over of the Gaon Sabha Land should be completed on Top Priority.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chairs.

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