

July 12, 2010

Islamic Center of Maryland
19411 Woodfield Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20879
301-840-9440
www.icomd.org

Update from the Board of Trustees

M. Nadeem Ahmad, Chair | Abdullah Shamim, Vice Chair
Iqbal Yousuf, Secretary | M. Sujjat Khan, Treasurer
Abu Waheed Khan, Trustee | Maged Sharaf, Trustee | Sayed Naved, Trustee

MASTER PLAN

Alhamdulillah, since our March update, we continued making good progress with our Master Plan. Recent developments include final hearing with the Park & Planning Commission and submission of the revised forestation plan. Additionally, we are just a hairline away from reaching our target of \$1.2 million for the ground breaking milestone.

Forestation Plan:

On June 3, the Maryland Park and Planning Commission heard our appeal against the two conditions that were imposed on us at the March 11 hearing. In order to remove the 1.5 acre of category one forest on ICM property, the first condition required us to buy twice the amount of forestation (3 acres) on a county approved location. The second condition was to have a 'minimum of 25 feet buffer' for plantation alongside the property lines between ICM and the Cyprus Run development.

The Park & Planning Board reviewed our appeal carefully and heard arguments from the members of the ICM community who were present on that day. However, the results were not completely in our favor. The Planning Board kept the condition for ICM to purchase 3 acres of alternate forestation but it softened the second condition by changing the '*minimum* of 25 feet buffer' requirement to '*not exceeding* 25 feet'. This would now allow the landscaping designer to adjust the area as needed for plantation to provide privacy screening for the neighbors.

With this hurdle removed, the next step was to revise the ICM forestation plan along with a new purchase contract for 3 acres of alternate forestation and submit it to the Park & Planning Commission to clear the way for Land Development / Sedimentation Control permit. The cost for **3** acres of alternate forestation is \$70,000 (our previous contract for **1.5** acre was at \$38,000).

The revised forestation plan was submitted on July 12. We will now follow up with the staff at Park & Planning Commission to obtain their review and approval as fast as possible. We expect to get the Land Development permit soon after the approval of the forestation plan.

With the above mentioned items in place, the prospects for ground breaking to occur within the third quarter of this year look very promising, insha Allah.

Design Progress:

Work continued on finalizing the detailed design documents. This work includes mechanical, electrical, and low voltage (A/V-LAN-SEC) designs. The LEEDS review for 'green building' compliance has also been started. There may be a change in mechanical-electrical-plumbing (MEP) design engineers. However, this does not affect ICM's prime contract with the architect as the MEP engineers are subcontractors to the architect. Engineering Construction Committee will make sure that the work is completed according to the requirements.

Next Steps:

July 12, 2010

Islamic Center of Maryland
19411 Woodfield Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20879
301-840-9440
www.icomd.org

The next steps involve pushing the approval process for the revised forest conservation plan through the Park and Planning Commission, obtaining the Land Development permit (already filed), and planning land development. We will also be working on putting together a team to manage the land development and construction phases. Filing for the Construction permit will follow sometime later this year or early next year.

Funding Situation:

Master Plan funds are sitting at almost \$1.12 million. So far, we have made \$148,000 of payments (capitalized cost) towards Master Plan specific activities and a cumulative little over \$69,000 through June 2010 for Master Plan fundraising activities (facility rentals, food, supplies, printing, ads, etc.). As you can see, we are less than a heartbeat away from meeting our target estimate of \$1.2 million for the ground breaking milestone.

As mentioned in our March update, the road ahead is tougher though. As soon as the work starts, the task to meet the cash flow requirement during the land development and construction phases will be challenging. We are working on many fronts to meet the challenge. These include Fundraisers, Grants/Permissible Loans, Sale of Burial Sites, and Qard-e-Hasanah (in-kind loans)/Major Sponsorships. Above all, as one of our community members put it, as long as we serve the cause of Allah (SWT) it is Him who will make this work easier for us solely based on His mercy and forgiveness.

FINANCES

At the end of June 2010, our total bank balance stood at just under \$1.19 million with almost \$1.12 million in Master Plan funds, just under \$25,000 in the masjid operating account, and a

little over \$44,000 in Zakat-ul-Maal. Our direct debit stands at a little over \$14,000 per month as of June 2010 with online and credit card donations at a little over \$26,000 for this year, so far.

Alhamdulillah, we have seen an increase in online and direct debit donations for Master Plan. In fact, our current data indicates more direct debit amount going towards Master Plan than other categories including masjid operations. However, this trend seems to have come at a cost to our direct debit and other donations to the masjid operations fund. When compared with the expenses incurred for masjid operations (salaries, utilities, repairs, maintenance, cleaning, etc.), we have spent about \$42,000 more than the funds collected at the end of June 2010. While most of these expenses are unexpected repairs and maintenance items, the incoming funds for masjid operations have also fallen short of the budgeted targets, so far. The Board has already put in place some steps to control expenses and to prop up funds for the masjid operations. Insha Allah we should be able to close this gap in the coming months.

OTHER AREAS

Masjid and Dawah:

A plan for Ramadan is being put together. Like last year, there will be invited speakers on Friday and Saturday nights as well as lectures, qiyam-ul-layl, and itekaf during the last ten nights of Ramadan. Specific arrangements are being made for the sisters to address their requests and concerns.

An appeal was sent to the community to help the Masjid Committee by joining and supporting it. In order to develop not just more but more effective programs, it is imperative that all qualified brothers and sisters step up to the task by

July 12, 2010

Islamic Center of Maryland
19411 Woodfield Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20879
301-840-9440
www.icomd.org

joining this committee. If interested, please send an email with your contact information to masjidprograms@icomd.org.

By-laws and Governance:

The General Body (GB) approved the introduction of an Executive Committee (headed by an Executive Director) to be implemented in 2011. ICM By-laws have been modified to guide and implement this expanded governing structure. All changes to the By-laws were approved by the GB at the annual meeting held on May 15, 2010. The GB also approved adopting Fiqh Council of North America's Islamic Lunar Calendar and methodology for planning and facilitating beginning of Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr, and Eid-ul-Adha.

Additionally, as informed during the last GB meeting in May 2010, the By-laws Committee will continue its work in strengthening the By-laws, closing loopholes, and, more importantly, developing operational procedures to be implemented in 2011 along with the formation of the Executive Committee.

Facilities:

There are some repairs required before the month of Ramadan. These include fixing the two broken ACs in the Pavilion building, bringing back to life the AC unit between men's musallah and the wudu area, replacing old thermostats, and fixing other items including exterior lights. Trellises broken during last winter have already been repaired. Broken driveway pavement at the entrance of ICM through the new access road has been repaired. An AV contractor is almost finished with fixing and expanding the audio and video broadcast capabilities, which now allows us to address all sections of our existing structure.

As mentioned in the previous section, unexpected cost of repairs and maintenance

continue to hit us. One of the ways to keep them in control is for each one of us to take ownership of our Center and watch for and report misuse, abuse, and vandalism.

Given the cost associated with the repairs and maintenance of ICM facilities to keep them in shape and in usable condition throughout the year, we need your help. Please donate generously to the masjid fund. You can also sponsor some of the major repair items. May Allah (SWT) reward you and your family for your generosity.

Education Programs:

We held a very successful Sunday School Graduation on June 20. This year's theme was 'Celebrating Islamic Education'. In presence were principals of ISG, MCC, Al-Huda, and ISF. Br. Nihad Awad Executive Director of CAIR was the keynote speaker. After the ceremony, a meeting was held with the invited guests. An 'Education Task Force' was formed to facilitate effective coordination among various Islamic schools as well as to work on strategic initiatives such as opening more full time schools.

Evening Quran classes offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays are going well and have grown in strength.

Youth (MY-ICM):

Stories of the Prophets, a joint event by MY-ICM and MAS-Youth offered on Friday evenings, is continuing with great interest. MY-ICM also held various youth events including a camp fire for our graduating middle and high school students. A number of other activities and events are planned for this summer, a list of which is posted on the ICM website under the Upcoming Events.

Umee and Me - Mother and Child resource program for kids 6 and under offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays – remains healthy.

July 12, 2010

Islamic Center of Maryland
19411 Woodfield Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20879
301-840-9440
www.icomd.org

Concluding Remarks

Among all the strategic and tactical objectives we have on our plate, the most critical objective remains starting the Master Plan construction by January 2011, deadline for ICM's exemption to the 8% rule (County regulation limiting construction to only 8% of the land owned). If we fail to start construction by that time then it may become tremendously difficult to get another three year exemption from the County. So, each one of us has to do his/her part. Let's take ownership of this project. Keep it in your mind

and make dua'. Inform others. Take every opportunity to donate. You can donate online as well by visiting the ICM website. Note that the entire story of our Master Plan is available on ICM website – just click on the Master Plan button and follow the trail.

May Allah reward all those brothers and sisters, young and old, who keep ICM in their dua' and continue to donate their time, effort, and money to make it a better place for generations to come.

Jazakum Allah Khair.

www.icomd.org

Subscribe to ICM News – Get Connected, Stay Engaged.

