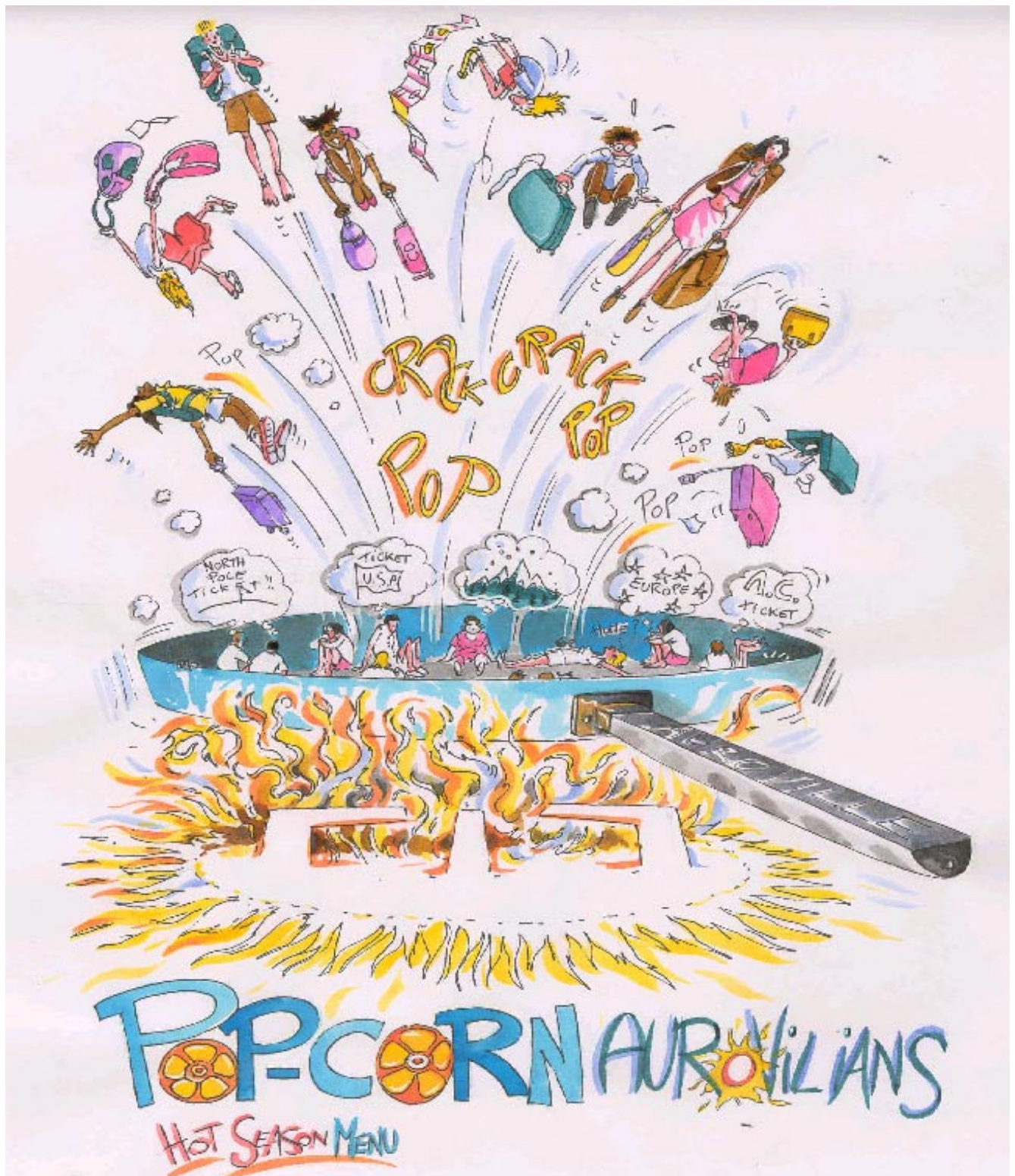


Auroville News

No:937

May 4th, 2002



HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA

Ton Agenda.

Mon Agenda ! Mais je le garde très précieusement !

Oh ! tu dis que ça ne t'intéresse pas.

Moi ? J'ai dit ça ?

Oui, et comment !

Alors j'ai menti.

Non, évidemment. Mais tu dis que ça ne t'intéresse pas, qu'il fallait garder ça dans un coin, ou je ne sais quoi. Alors qu'est-ce que je fais ici ?

Tu n'as certainement pas compris ce que je t'ai dit. J'ai dit que c'est impubliable pour le moment, c'est tout à fait différent.

Oui, ça, sûrement, ce n'est pas publiable maintenant.

Et je t'ai donné rendez-vous dans cinquante ans. J'étais très sérieuse : je riais. C'est justement quand je ris que je suis sérieuse.

Non-non, mon petit, c'est tout simplement.... Tu as avalé un poison.

Non, tu m'as même dit que si par hasard tu partais, tu laisserais une note pour que ce ne soit pas publié.

Publié ? Certainement pas dans les journaux. Mais ce sera pour ceux qui s'intéressent au yoga.

Si c'est comme cela, c'est différent.

Je parlais des journaux et des magazines, et du monde extérieur. J'ai dit : « Je ne veux pas que le monde extérieur fasse des gorges chaudes avec quelque chose qui est sacré. » Voilà.

Ça, sûrement.

Et c'est tout. C'est la seule chose que j'ai dite. Je ne l'ai peut-être pas dit tout à fait comme cela, mais j'ai dit que c'était pour ceux qui m'aiment. C'est la seule chose. Ceux qui m'ont aimée, eh bien, c'est très bien, je leur donne ça. Même s'ils m'oublient, ça leur fera souvenir. Mais ceux qui continuent à m'aimer, c'est mon cadeau. Alors je n'ai pas l'intention de leur donner un cadeau sans valeur.

Non-non, j'ai dû vraiment m'expliquer très mal parce que c'était tout le contraire ! Je considère cet Agenda comme beaucoup trop intime et beaucoup trop proche de moi pour le donner en pâture à des tas d'imbéciles.

Je suis bien d'accord ! Mais tu avais dit (ou j'ai cru comprendre) que d'une façon systématique, tu gardais cet Agenda et que ce ne serait jamais à la disposition, justement, de ceux qui s'intéressent au Travail.

Non, ce n'est pas cela. J'ai dit deux choses : si j'arrive au bout, alors là, peut-être même que je permettrai que ce soit montré au public – parce que il y aura la preuve : « Vous n'avez pas besoin de vous moquer : ça mène LÀ où on en est. » Et si le Seigneur décide que ce n'est pas pour cette fois-ci, eh bien, je le donnerai à ceux qui m'ont aimée, ont vécu avec moi, ont fait du travail avec moi, ont essayé avec moi – et qui ont le respect de ce qu'on a essayé de faire. Ce sera le cadeau que je leur ferai en m'en allant – si je m'en vais. Je n'en ai pas l'intention.

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA

Your Agenda.

My Agenda? But I treasure it!

Oh, you said it didn't interest you....

Me? I said that!

Yes. You sure did!

Then I was lying.

No, obviously not. But you said it didn't interest you and it should be filed away in a corner or I don't know what. So what am I doing here?

You surely misunderstood me. I said it's unpublishable for the time being; that's quite different.

Yes, it's certainly not publishable right now.

And I made a date with you for fifty years from now. I was very serious: I was laughing. When I laugh I am being serious.

No, no, mon petit, it's simply that ... you have swallowed some poison.

No, you even told me that if you happened to go you would leave a note saying it shouldn't be published.

Published? Certainly not in the newspapers. It will be for those interested in the yoga.

Well, that's different.

I was speaking about newspapers and magazines and the outside world. I said, "I don't want the outside world to scoff at something sacred." That's all.

Of course.

And that's all I said. Maybe I didn't put it in exactly those words, but I said it was for those who love me. That's the point. For those who have loved me, well, it's all right, I give it to them; even if they forget me, it will make them remember. But it's my gift to those who continue to love me. And I don't intend to give them a worthless gift.

No, no, I must really have expressed myself very poorly, because it was quite the opposite. I deem this Agenda far too intimate, far too near and dear to me, to be thrown as fodder to a bunch of idiots!

I fully agree! But you said (at least I thought you did) that you would systematically file this Agenda away, that it would never even be at the disposal of those interested in the Work.

No, not that. I said two things. One, if I make it through to the end, I may even let it be shown to the public, for the living proof will be there: "You don't need to scoff - just see where it leads - HERE!" And if the Lord decides it's not for this time, well, then I will give it to those who have loved me, who have lived with me, worked with me, endeavored with me, and who respect what was attempted. It will be my parting gift ... if I go. And I don't intend to.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY, 28 April, 2002

A General Meeting was called by the Working Committee for Sunday, April 28th., at 8:30 a.m. with the title:

ON THE MATRIMANDIR AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY CENTRE. The morning's agenda included presentations by: the Matrimandir Design/Study Group, the Access/Usage Group, the Architect's Team and the Matrimandir Workers' Team. After a tea break, the participants were asked to come back and consider the proposal from the Working Committee for a City Centre Development Task Force. There were approximately 2 hours for discussion on this proposal. The meeting itself was well attended (for a Sunday), by about 90 people. Selvaraj and Aurovici from the Working Committee were chairing. A summary of the Meeting follows:

Luigi introduced the main topic by discussing the relationship of Matrimandir to the community. He concentrated on 5 aspects of this relationship: 1. unity, 2. intensity, 3. communication, 4. integration and 5. universality. Each of these aspects was needed to build a universal township inhabited by universal beings.. Luigi ended by stating that he hoped in his own work to help in the building of this township by "bringing out the best in each of us."

Charu read a letter from the Matrimandir Worker's Team (see text attached). The Worker's Team urged the Community to allow the work on Matrimandir to go forward under Roger's guidance. Forty three workers signed the letter.

Joy read out a letter from Soham in which he expressed his support for the message of the Worker's Team. In particular, Soham described the gardens that Mother talked about as "Japanese", (perhaps not literally, but with the poetic touch and charm of Japanese gardens) and "with tall trees" and which would insure the protection of Matrimandir from the surrounding noise.

Amar also came forward and read out his "message to Roger" in which he invited Roger "to join us and we will lay down the most beautiful gardens possible".

Gilles G. spoke next about his experience with the Matrimandir Design/Study Group. As others have said, the group quickly discovered that the problems were more deep rooted than was at first suspected. The division was not about some technical aspects of

the design, but rather a division between adherents of two visions from Mother, one from 1965 and the other from 1970. Perhaps the best way to understand this is to consider that the vision was evolving, as for example what happened with the design of the urn: Mother had instructed Roger to make an urn shaped like a lotus bud, but in fact the final design was more like a lily bud. Mother still gave this final design her blessings. Regarding the gardens, Gilles asked the Community to consider whether a Japanese design in combination with Matrimandir would be appropriate: "You can't put a Japanese garden around a supramental sun".

A Letter from Serge was read out by Kathryn. Serge expressed what was most important to him in his work with the Unity Committee: :

"Through the work of the Unity Committee, I had become convinced that we could find a harmonious solution to all our problems on the condition that it is done with a sincere willingness to seek truth beyond personal perceptions." (See full text attached).

Peter T. spoke next for the Access and Usage Group. After many months of study, they could divide their conclusions into two groups: 1) What Mother wanted and 2) What is practical. Regarding the access to Visitors, the group had concluded that they would recommend keeping the one hour a day schedule, but that the situation of parking should be reviewed by a group which would look into the parking problem. The study group put forward the idea that a parking area for all Matrimandir visitors be established near the Visitor's Centre. Similarly, there should be groups established to deal with the amphitheatre and the activities around the Banyan tree. Regarding Aurovilians and their guests, the Study group recommended that Aurovilians be allowed to bring with them 2 guests and that a simple guest pass be issued for this purpose on the spot by the Matrimandir office.

After the Tea Break, the participants returned and Ulli introduced the proposal for a City Centre Development Task Force. Ulli started from the division which has arrived from the two visions of 1965 and 1970. Since we could not resolve, at this moment, the division, perhaps what we should do is to understand what these differences mean to the work and try to find some common ground on which we could all agree. Certainly, we understand that the Matrimandir and the City are connected. Can this

very connection take us beyond polarity?

Jill described to the group the ground reality of the City Centre: it is comprised of Matrimandir, the gardens, the lake, the administrative zone and parts of all 4 zones up to the Crown, and, according to the Master Plan, will eventually support 5,000 inhabitants. In order to facilitate the next phase of the work on the area around Matrimandir, the City Centre Development Task Force can give us a new way of thinking about the relationship between Matrimandir and the City - and support a more holistic view in which the complementary relationship between the inner (soul) and the outer (city) world become clear.

Sigrid spoke in appreciation for the idea of the City Centre DTF, but expressed deep disappointment with the conclusions of the Access and Usage group - adding that some days without visitors would help us in our collective work at Matrimandir.

Paul Vincent related his relationship to the work of building Matrimandir, which began for him in 1972. Paul described Matrimandir as a "focal point of our collective consciousness - it's not a building, it's our soul. Really, I don't care how Matrimandir is built, but I do care about the consciousness that is put into it."

Anandi called for the Community to proceed "on what we can all agree on."

From this call, Ulli responded with a letter from Michael Bonke, in which Michael lists the tasks he sees that can be done now (see full text attached):

1. inner skin
2. outer skin from inside
3. ramp
4. paths to gardens
5. levelling of garden grounds
6. lotus pond
7. plastering of the petal chambers

There followed a discussion on the City Centre Development Task Force which included important supporting points from Joseba, and Dominic (AS). Paulette spoke about the need to see the discussion about Mother's vision in chronological order, and then it would become clear that the vision had evolved.

Alain G. made a proposal to participate in the work which could be done now on the gardens, as he had been part of the beginning garden work 30 years ago (see full text attached).

Nergez made the observation that perhaps Matrimandir, like the soul, has to be "found", i.e.,

discovered and that some preparation should be done before entering the inner Chamber.

Encouragement to continue the work was expressed variously by Jean P., Jean-Yves, Amrit, Walter, Luca, Durai, Shankar, Frederik and Shiva (MM). Some saw that the work could continue simply by "accepting" Roger as the architect and unblocking the obstacles so that Roger could have a team that "complements him". There were serious reservations, however, about the location, size and proportions of the lake as it has been proposed, which could destroy the landscaping work as it presently exists. The last speaker finally called for "No more study groups! Let's get back to work!"

Finally, Ulli summed up the 3 hour's meeting by observing that "We have just started our discussion. We can not reach a conclusion today. What we know is that there is a lot of work ahead."

The Working Committee would like to thank those who helped with setting up the meeting and breakfast.

(The relevant letters to the above general meeting are published in the supplement)

From the Working Committee:

Below is the Report of the April 23rd General Meeting on Collective Decision-Making that was omitted by the News staff last week. We have simply repeated the introductory paras (which did appear) - below that is what we asked you to respond to. Obviously, the deadline is extended by one week (until May 11th) to give you adequate time to do so.

The purpose of this General Meeting was to get feedback from the community on a set of underlying principles upon which to base a collective decision-making process for Auroville. These principles were published in last week's *News*, and appear below in simplified format. *There was unanimous consent among the approximately 60 Aurovilians who attended this General Meeting on all of the principles that appear below.* Comments, suggestions, concerns that were expressed on each section appear after it. We're trying to take this process step-by-step, and the next step is to flesh out the details to make a full proposal for collective decision-making to present again to the community for its feedback and approval. What we need from you, the community, at this point is to know if there is

anyone who *does not agree* with the principles listed below, and if so, the basis for that disagreement. We are aiming at a true synthesis-leading-to-consensus process here. We want to hear from you. As the current Working Committee is only “in office” until the 10th September, we aim to have a fully articulated and adopted decision-making process and internal organization structure in place by then, therefore we will need to continue the process over the summer in order to arrive at this goal. These principles are the first step. We ask that, if you do not agree with them, you let us know within 2 weeks (by May 11th).

Address feedback to: Kathryn (Verite), 622-871, Ulli (Fraternity), 622-187, or Working Committee, 622-143, workingcom@.

Making Collective Decisions in Auroville Principles and Guidelines

Authority

1) Within Auroville, the Residents Assembly has the final authority for all decisions that affect the community.

- a) The Residents Assembly is all Aurovilians over 18 whose names appear on the Register of Residents.
- b) The RA has the right to include other members of the Auroville community (e.g. youth, workers, friends of Auroville, etc.) in its decision making process when appropriate.

Comments:

- RA should not be able to make decisions that are significantly unaligned with the Charter and ideals of AV
- The RA is not a meeting – meetings will play a part in the d-m process, but will not be where a final decision is made.

What constitutes agreement?

1. Consensus among all parties is an ideal that we strive for in making collective decisions.
2. The process to reach agreement must take into account as wide a range of viewpoints as possible.
3. If, and only if, a sincere process has been tried and we have failed to reach consensus, then the Residents Assembly should see whether a decision by consent is possible - whether those who do not agree with a proposed decision are willing to step aside in order to allow the community to move forward.
4. If neither consensus nor consent can be achieved, then the Residents Assembly can be asked to vote to resolve issues or make decisions.
5. Different levels of approval may constitute acceptance for different types of decisions. *[Note: What we mean here is that, for a serious or irreversible decision, a higher level of approval – e.g. 75% - would be required, whereas for other*

decisions, e.g. approval of a policy or the guidelines for formation of working groups, a lower threshold (e.g. 65%) may be considered adequate.] See last section on “Voting”.

Comments:

- The mission of the RA is to find where we all agree.
- The true ideal is something higher than consensus.
- Those not consenting have to be of some significant number. One or two people should not be able to force the community into a voting process.
- We need to guard against jumping too fast from a consensus process to voting.
- It will need to be specified who decides that we have tried and failed to reach consensus, and on what basis. (pre-vote opinion poll could help us know whether we are close to a consensus or not)
- What do we do with the people who are ‘overruled’ by the vote?
- Making a clear (collective) statement has its own force; we just need a clear and transparent process.
- During the consensus process, those in opposition should be made to make the opposing argument, as an exercise in widening.
- People should feel an obligation to participate (or refrain from blocking).
- The minority is not necessarily “wrong” – we’ve seen many instances where a strongly held minority position led to our next necessary step. The intent of the process is for the “highest decision” that can be made at that moment.

Which decisions should be made by whom?

1. Decisions should in general be made at the most decentralized level possible.

Working groups should continue to make decisions in areas of their direct responsibility. Usually only issues or policies that are broader than the functional responsibility of any single working group, or decisions on which there is substantial objection to a working group decision or policy, should come to the Residents Assembly for resolution

2. Any Working Group whose delegated responsibilities (mandate) and procedure for membership have been accepted by the Residents Assembly may make the necessary operational decisions to carry out that responsibility on behalf of the community.
3. The Residents Assembly will approve:
 - a) Auroville-wide policies,
 - b) procedures for the formation of all major Working Groups,
 - c) the delegated responsibilities for major Working Groups.
 - d) medium and long-term development plans
 - e) the community budget.

f) specific proposals that from time-to-time may be brought before it.

Comments:

- How could the RA make an informed decision about something like a community-wide budget?
- It's time that we trust those that we have approved to serve us on working groups.
- WG decisions must be appealable to the RA.
- Many small decisions can create a de facto policy.
- The RA should approve the values and principles upon which policies will be based. Working groups should formulate the policies and operational guidelines (their mandate) based on these, and then submit them to the RA for approval.

Preparation of proposals to the Residents Assembly for decision:

1. A group (we call it **the Council** for purposes of clarity in this document) will need to be formed to serve the RA in this process. The Council may make proposals on behalf of the RA but they must always be subject to the review of the RA.
2. Proposals to establish or amend policy may arise from individuals and ad hoc groups of Residents as well as from the Council, working groups or established activities.
3. Regardless of where a proposal for a decision originates, the RA must be provided with adequate and timely information to enable it to make an informed decision.
4. All feedback to proposals presented to the RA must be transparent and made readily available to anyone interested.
5. There should be regular open meetings of the Residents, the Council and working groups to discuss current issues.

Comments:

- While others can prepare a proposal for consideration by the RA, the Council sets the standard (i.e. the procedures that must be followed) for doing so.
- The number of people behind a proposal must be substantive (i.e. the RA should not be forced to consider a proposal that only 1 or 2 people consider to be an issue).
- Question was asked: Can a "spirit of a meeting" prevail? i.e. if some clear and universally-supported decision arises from a meeting, can it be considered a decision of the RA? This was answered: If it's the right decision, it will withstand a period of feedback and approval of the whole community.

General Recommendations

1. Any decision-making process has to be flexible

- enough to be transformed as we evolve and understand how to work together better in the future.
2. Education will be needed for Council members and members of other working groups to learn how to work together better (e.g. respectful communication, group dynamics, etc.).
3. There needs to be a single location where people can go to get information on township issues, to meet with the council, Working Committee, etc. (Town Hall?)

Comments:

- We should develop a "code of conduct" for Council members.

Voting

The following two points were thought to be in the right direction, but we were not unanimous. Further discussion will have to take place with the community before a final proposal can be formulated.

- a) As a general rule, any decision with irreversible impacts should carry a high requirement for approval (say 75%), while two-thirds might be considered adequate for other decisions. (Others thought a simple majority would suffice, but we haven't found a satisfactory answer to the question of how to implement a decision in Auroville with which nearly half the community disapproves)
- b) A quorum of at least 20% of the those eligible to vote and in station at the time of the vote is necessary.

Comments:

- We could consider a lower threshold to overturn decisions, to give us an easier reversal in the event that we discover that we made the wrong decision.
- Maybe the quorum/threshold numbers could be relational – e.g. if the percentage voting is high, the percentage needed to accept the proposal is lower. However if the number voting is low, a high percentage of those would have to accept the proposal.

To state again, there was unanimous consent on the points (not the comments) listed above. If you disagree, let us know now, as we intend to base our detailed proposal on these agreements in principle.

With Love, Kathryn

for the Working Committee and the ad hoc group on decision-making
(Anna Maria, Claudine, Isabelle, Janet, Jaya, Kathryn, Lyle, Mikael S, Monique, Paulette, Peter T, Ulli – w/ Caryl and Serge as consultants)

MEETING OF THE MATRIMANDIR WORKERS TEAM 25th APRIL 2002.

Present: Amar, Amrit, Arjun, Carlos, Charu, Durai, Gajendran, Jithu, John, Kusumben, Lakshminarayan, Ralph, Saravanan, Shiva, Somu, Walter.

Chair: John

1) Housing: The letter requesting space near the Matrimandir for three Matrimandir workers to start a housing complex has been sent to the I.D.C.

2) Amphitheater Usage: A group of Aurovillians has proposed themselves to "serve as a team to address to for activities to take place in the amphitheater" (Joy, Sigrid, Carlos, Srimoyi, Soham).

Amrit, a member of the "Matrimandir Access and Usage Study Group" said that they have formulated their proposals for the area, among which is indeed included the need for a group to select and coordinate the programs of the amphitheater. This group, however, can only function after the community as a whole has agreed upon the direction and policy for the use of the amphitheater. The topic is expected to come up during the Matrimandir meeting at Bharat Nivas on the 28th.

3) Preparation for the Matrimandir meeting of the 28th: The team spent some time-sharing its different views on what to stress in its presentation to the meeting of the 28th.

The dominant theme continued to be the need to build the Peace area according to the vision and descriptions of the Mother. The need for an isolating zone around the gardens, as well as the presence of tall trees and the Japanese way of gardening were felt to be essential points. The second main point that was stressed was the fact that the Matrimandir team, made of those many Aurovillians working on the site, is the body that is now coordinating the work and dealing with matters related to the Matrimandir through its weekly meetings.

These points were to be put in a letter form which would then be the basis of our presentation on the 28th. (Note: this letter was formulated and finalized in a second meeting on this topic held the next day and was subsequently signed by 43 of the Aurovillians working on the site. The letter was read out at the meeting of the 28th.)

4) The maintenance list for May was approved, with no changes from the last month.

5) Financial requests:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| a) Cement for the petals.....100 bags | Rs. 14700.00 |
| b) Sand for the petals 10 loads | Rs. 11000.00 |
| c) Bullock for the Nursery | Rs. 9000.00 |

IIDC MEETING REPORT 05.04.02

PRESENT: JOSEBA, AUROVICI, JILL, EUGEN, PETER A., DHARMESH, JACQUES, SONJA
GUESTS: MARGARITA, PALA, GILLES B.

SERVICE NODE

Lalit came to discuss the progress on the service node near the certitude corner. It was discussed in detail at the meeting with the concerned parties, including all the services in the abri area. It was felt that the time to go forward has come looking at the serious need to expand for the transport service. It was decided to go forward on the issue taking into account suggestions given by the certitude residents and other concerned individuals and groups. We approved the idea as a whole. The details are being worked out with the relevant people.

WATER SITUATION

Margarita and Gilles b. came along with the economy group rep. Pala. The Solar Kitchen team and the kindergarten or SAIER rep. Didn't attend. The problem of the water at the kindergarten and the solar kitchen was discussed again and Joseba and Jill will follow it up with both the parties. Margarita again stressed the need to look into the matter more seriously. They also mentioned the lack of cooperation from the concerned parties.

LAND PURCHASE AND ISSUES

Peter came to update us all about the land purchase and the current issues to be looked into. There seems to be a lot of pressures of the developers still in the vicinity of Auroville. Auroville needs to make all the efforts to secure the land use patterns of the master plan and the bioregion as a whole. The role of the joint Auroville village development council was launched in this regard so that the surrounding villages can participate and that issues of common interest can be solve for the best of all parties.

REVE PHASE TWO

The issue of the Reve project management was discussed at length so that the project can be completed as per the plans. We are looking into all that is to be corrected at the project management level so that the project progresses unhindered. As far as the construction is concerned, the project is on schedule and is progressing well. We get a monthly update from our group representative in the management group.

I.D.C. Meeting Report 09.04.02 and

Present: Dharmesh, Aurovici, Joseba, Jacques, Sonja (Secretary), Jill

Observer: Eugen, Peter A., Stuart (Housing Service), Nicole

I.D.C Meeting Report on 12.04.02

Present: Joseba, Aurovici, Peter, Jill, Eugen(Consultant), Jacques, Sonja (Secretary)

Visitor Centre and its future development

Proposal by Nicole to expand the Visitor Centre. Nicole wants to avoid the more and more coming up traffic from Visitor Centre to Matrimandir. She explained to us an Idea of shuttle buses , which coming from (maybe) Adventure, where guests will have to park further on, and take this buses in big groups. The buses will wait until they are full of guests. The proposed expansion would be financed by Government of India. The access to the Visitor Centre will be changed, so as to force people to come to the Visitor Centre also by foot. There would be another wing added to the building already present. This building would be placed where the toilets are now situated, and the toilets would be moved. The main groups are already involved and Nicole will approach Planning Group to see the future plans, and best possibilities of the parking area.

iIZG to AZG

The Industrial Zone Group wants to change their name to Auroshilpam Zone Group. We discussed on it and had to reply them that this can be only the name of a subgroup.

Objections against Newcomer as members of working groups

Our first step was to request Working Committee to look into this matter, if Newcomers can be members of a working group. After we got replied, that there is no rule, which is showing the opposite, we announced Eugen as a new member. The responsibility of our group keeping in mind we feel that the objections to Newcomers of the IDC maybe even in general is questionable, this because now Newcomer time has grown from 1 year to 2 years. And further on we were looking on the skills of our members, not on their status. We received in fact two objections and one support. None of the objection could shown us a basic rule or statement where Newcomer are not allowed to join a working group as member.

Matrimandir fence

A letter will be send to Matrimandir team to figure out what is going on there.

Pony Farm

We requested Green Group to figure out, if it would be possible for Pony Farm to move to plot No. BOM 5/1. We got informed that right now no Green Group does not exist, and will take some more time to built up a new one

Red Earth Riding School

RERS want to move to Brihaspathi. We will study the full situation, if there will be a possibility for RERS to move to this place. The main question is regarding the children. Would it be to dangerous to send them there for horse riding? The Green Group has to have also a look on this matter and to reply to us a recommendation first.

For Sve Dam

For the Sve Dam building application we recommend that no further development take place until all the planning issues and "illegal" constructions issues have been clarified.

The IDC Budget

For this Year we will get less money, because FEW has reduced the budget very much. This will give some trouble to the IDC, as we are not able to finance coming urgent cases. The IDC has to find ways to generate funds to run.

Yann Water Study Report

Yann submitted two full files of data, which has to be analysed. He was off to Bengal for the past 2 months so he could not work on the study. This important study has still to be carried out in a satisfaction manner and an acceptable time frame. Right now the IDC is still waiting on Yann's reply as he was supposed to do this water study.

Solar Kitchen Waste Water

There is still the problem of money what has to be solved. Until now the response has to be clarified, and also the founding of the money.

Service Node / Reply on "Open Letter to the IDC"

The aspects highlighted by Piero & Gloria in regard to proposed Service Node were discussed in the meeting, which essentially talks about the importance of having sector level green/open within the sectors and/or in the

adjoining areas and the essentiality of a bypass road southern of Edyanchavadi village. Lalit mentioned that this bypass road has been proposed in the Master Plan too but to come to the level of actual realisation of it, looking at the parties and process involved in Auroville and with other external agencies, it is a quite long & difficult way to go. Some initiatives are expected to be made in this direction at appropriate time.

Regarding the provision of open/green spaces within the sectors, the currently on going work is dealing with that. The preliminary data analysis shows that the open/green spaces are not just the spaces between the buildings and along the roads but much more substantial in size. However, as the work on these aspects is on, hence a clearer picture of it will be available soon and shared & discussed with all concerned at appropriate time. Earliest it is expected to be ready in its draft form around the end of May.

Barbed-wire

It seems that barbed wire fence has been erected around Unity Pavilion site and on some other places.

In behalf of the community the IDC published clearly that barbed wires are not acceptable in Auroville, as they are inhuman and dangerous.

Please, to all of you who build up a barbed wire fence, remove kindly them immediately. There is no need in our Community for such a fence.

Building Application is waiting two weeks for feedback.

Lisa Gather, Auromodele, Residence with 2 Units, Storeroom

The IDC

Erratum:

Regarding the minutes of General meeting of April 28th (published in meeting page1), one should read "access to Visitors, the group had concluded that they would recommend keeping the **one hour a day**" instead of "one day a week".

ALLOCATION OF THE SPACE TO THE WORKING COMMITTEE.

A couple of week ago, the Working Committee approached the Bharat Nivas Management Group (Ashoke, Dharmesh, Krishen Mayer) for the approval of the space exchange they had agreed upon with the Library.

The exchange proposed would move the AVI - office and Drivers Licence office into the WC office. Then the library, who occupies two small rooms directly adjoining the area thus liberated would occupy those spaces.

Then the WC could move into the library space, which earlier housed the AV News. This proposal was discussed between Ulli from the WC and Juergen on April 13th. Juergen did agree to the proposal in front of Minh and Sanjeev. Subsequently Juergen changed his mind and refused to honour this agreement.

The WC further clarified, that they could not occupy the space now used by AVI and Licence, as due to the nature of the cloth partitions, details of confidential discussions would not be contained in the WC office space.

The WC also demonstrated, that they are unable to function effectively in their present setup, which makes it impossible to answer a phone call without disrupting any on going discussion or have meetings with other working groups due to the limited space available.

For the future growth of Bharat Nivas which is under way we would like to utilise the spaces falling vacant. Last year also similar misunderstanding with the library group has taken place regarding the space vacated by the auroville news.

This time we would request the library group to cooperate with us and share the space with the working committee.

Ashoke Chatterjee and Dharmesh

for Bharat Nivas Management Group

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING

May 14th. 5:00 p.m. SAWCHU BUILDING

The topics to discuss:

Follow up on the General Meeting of Sunday,
April 28th, 2002

**"Matrimandir and its Relation to the
City Center"**

Present in more detail the City Centre Development Task Force, including Group Membership
Mandate of the CCDTF

Discussion on Sigrid's Amphitheatre Proposal

Everyone is Welcome!

**Last School is looking for the next term –
a Math's - Physics teacher. If you are interested
please phone either Jean(Dana), Deepti or
Jean-Yves**

Altecs has moved to AURELEC,
Prayogashala, Kulapalayam on 01.May 2002
All telephone numbers remain the same

ATTENTION ALL AUROVILIANS -
We would like to make it known widely in the community that Paul Fontanier has been declared "persona non grata" in Auroville. We request individual, Aurovilians and guests, as well as Auroville guest houses and managers of public facilities (including the Youth Centre) not to host this individual. He was asked to leave Auroville many years ago and continues to be a source of serious disturbance during his stays in the area. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Working Committee.

Dear Aurovilians:

Someone has the book: THE UNIVERSE IN A NUTSHELL by Stephen Hawking that can borrow me?

Thanks in advance.....Margarita (623 391)

AMPHITHEATER

Be in the center and enjoy Sunil's music !
Children like it too !

Mother is reading the story of Savitri, who came on Earth to defeat Death and thus allow the advent of a New Creation based Love Light and Truth.

On Thursday 9.5. at 6 p.m. we will play

The Book of Love Canto III

By the way.... The Peace area is open every day for Aurovilians !

Sigrid

AMPHITHEATRE

I strongly recommend you to experience these Thursday evening 6 pm Savitri/Sunil sessions at the Amphitheatre.

It's a cleansing experience.

It also provides you with an opportunity to feel and sense the wideness and function of the centre space in the context of our city. Amazingly revealing.

Try it!

-mauna

Monthly Vipassana 1-Day Course

for old students

Because the 10-day course will be running the 1-day course will be held on Sunday, May 5th, at QUIET.

Note From the Guest Service

Please note that during MAY and JUNE the GUEST SERVICE, located above the Solar Kitchen, will be open on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY from 9,30am to 1 pm.

When the office is closed, your guests can refer to - Visitors Centre for general information on Auroville and guest houses.

-Financial Service for registration, guest cards and opening of accounts.

Enjoy your summer!
Lella for AV Guest Service

Tashi Delek.

Vanakam,

Dear Friends,

This is to inform you that the chief Medical Doctor Rabten La will be visiting Auroville on Saturday 18th of May. For consultation you can call Kalsang @ pavilion of Tibetan Culture 623 338, 622401. And on Monday, Wednesday and Friday call 622 033. From the 16th of May no appointments will be given.

Thank You,

Tibetan Pavilion Team.

This note is for the herbal tea lovers. We are having some Tibetan herbal tea at Tibetan Pavilion. If you are interested just pass by Tibetan pavilion on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. The Stock is limited.

Tibetan Pavilion Team

Summer Timings

Laboratory of Evolution will be open only mornings from Monday to Friday in May.

LOE Team.

Anyone interested to share a taxi to Madras Airport on the 15th of May at 2am. (even earlier)? Contact Jivatman at Solar Kitchen (Lunch Time) or Transformation.

I am desperately looking for partners to play Ping pong and chess. Please contact, Michel Bi at Quiet: 622 641

Selling UPS 500 VA, Desire, 1 year old

Contact: david@kis.ernet.in

I am looking for a 2nd hand scooter in good condition. Please contact Joel (Invocation): 623632 or 9845023963 or e-mail <joel@x-air.info

Suzuki Max100R 1996 model, in good condition.

Contact: Manohar 622 549

Interview with an Owl

"A student is studying microbe through microscope, but the microbe is researching student from the other side of the microscope" (a joke of students).

Eric an Indian zoologist showed me his damaged ear: the Indian great horned owl (Bubo bubo) attacked him near its nest in Aranya. I received a binocular from Eric and saw the very special face of the owl in the crown of the nearest Palmyra. I asked: "Oh owl, you are a wise bird, please, tell me about Finland".

The owl answered: "It is an important question. Why didn't anybody ask me about it? In Finland the dandelion grows, its Latin name is Taraxacum officinale. Timo Assmuth lives in this country, he wrote in "Taraxacum" – a magazine of International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation: "People have ignored the fact that humankind is a part of the total ecosystem, and that we destroy the basis of our own life when the nature is damaged. ...The food is not produced in factories with poisonous chemicals..."

Boris.

Dear Friends,

In the past 3 weeks I have had 2 very misfortunate mishaps:

The first one was around the 12/4 when I misplaced/**lost my CD-case**. It is small, black, squarish/single CD per 'page'; the outside is a plastic with a soft leather-like feel & a small tag that reads "Deja". Inside the CD-pockets are made out of a soft, black cloth material & the CD's are mainly copied music & programs (both very precious to me) but nothing of any direct monetary value.

The second incident was on Saturday night, (20/4) around 11 – 12 pm, when my **helmet was stolen** from my motorcycle that was parked by the basketball court in Certitude. It is a white, Beamer-style, HJC (brand) helmet, made in Korea.

If anybody has any information as to the whereabouts of either of these 2 things or would return them to me I would most utterly grateful & indebted. I would definitely also be ready to give a nice fat reward if that is the question.

You can contact me at work (622034) or at the Youth Center (622857) or by email (naturellement@hotmail.com).

Love & Light, Simon

AUROVILLE BASKETBALL CLUBS
(Affiliated to Pondicherry Basketball Association)
ALL INDIA INVITATION BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
For Men and Women from 30th May to 2nd June-2002

Dear Friends,

We, Auroville Basketball clubs will conduct an all India Basketball invitation tournament in the months of May-June 2002. This will be a major event in basketball in Auroville. We will be inviting teams from Pondicherry, Tami Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Chatishgarh and hopefully from Punjab as well. The teams invited to take part in this event will be having the best players in the country, both in the men and women sections, who have represented India in the international events abroad. Amongst the events of this magnitude and nature in basketball in our country, only this tournament boasts of having women teams participating side by side with men's. The program will last four days and we have tremendous task of having to transport, accommodate, feed and encourage the men and women participating by rewarding prizes to the best four teams. With the hope of you enlightening our financial burden, we are herewith enclosing a summery of budget estimate for the same and request your kind participation, encouragement and well wishing for a successful program.

Thanking you in advance for your generosity and help,
Auroville Basketball Clubs.

Budget Summery

Food	Rs. 45,000.00
Transport	Rs. 30,000.00
Lodging	Rs. 40,000.00
Prize	Rs. 30,000.00
Court repair	Rs. 65,000.00
Officials Fee	Rs. 10,000.00
Miscellaneous	Rs. 10,000.00
Total:	Rs. 2,30,000.00

Harmony's Arrival

When our heart is dancing,
The whole world is our audience and
Even the stars and the trees rejoice.

When our spirit is visiting the kingdoms of bliss,
All beings become our lovers and
Even the unknown universe becoming a living friend.

When our extreme contraries of life confuse our senses,
Still is the unreadable harmony all around and
Even the deathless harmony of life itself can be felt.

When united within and without in calm joy,
All our inner fires burn their tranquil white and liquid
blue flames,
Even the highest beauty twixt soul and soul
Comes near for a spiritual moment of perfect
relationship.

When the wonder book of common things,
Is opened again as if for the first time,
Even the trivial notes of day and night prepares us,
For harmony's arriving.

Shwetaketu

Broken Bow

The iron wall is shattered
Mind stuff is wasted
'Super' is the only word
In this super World.

Man hides his spark
Dark is his truth;
'Ways', he always wants
How to guide this fool.

There, here, how, when,
Which, where, who...
Thousands of questions
This feeds the confusion.
Plane, open wide is all
But who knows this at all.

Manikandan.

**Visitors' Centre evening program
for the month of May**

Monday : Italian video

Tuesday : 8PM Theater Sports with Jessie

Wednesday : German video

Thursday : French video

**Friday : 6PM Children video
8PM English video**

Saturday : 8PM English video

Sunday : 6PM Theater Sports with Jessie

For details of the video programs please see elsewhere in the News. In case of music program on the stage the video show may be cancelled.

The Cafeteria is open every evening for diner 6.30PM to 9.30PM. Special food for kids on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Buffet diner every Saturday night.

South indian breakfasts

The cafeteria is open for breakfasts every day from 8AM with idly, vadai and dosas as well as continental breakfasts.

Plate of 3 idlys (or 2 idlys and vadai) : Rs 10/.

An Appeal

To all,

After studying the waste water treatment in Vikas, Gilles has informed us that our current system is inadequate. It was originally developed to meet the needs of far fewer people than now reside in Vikas. As a result, the present system has been rendered obsolete and dangerous to Vikas and the neighboring communities of Kailash, Sailam, Prayatna, Creativity, Solar Kitchen, among others. We are concerned that the waste water will enter the water table and contaminate a large part of Auroville water source. A large scale breeding of mosquitoes and air pollution are also big threats.

Gilles has recommended an adaptation of our current system that would solve the problem with the least amount of cost. We are currently pooling our resources towards this cause. However, Vikas is incapable of raising the full amount (1.2 laks). We have already approached the DG and FAMC to help. Now we appeal to you, the

community at large to help by your donations.

We feel that with the current water problems in Auroville, this needs to be remedied immediately.

Thank you in advance for any donation you can make. Please make contributions to Vikas Infrastructure account # 0668.

If you require further information please contact Vikas 622 090 and speak with Chaitanya, Paula, Paulien, or Vani.

Thank you, from the Vikas Community

THE ISSUE IS OURSELVES

After 3 and half hours of meeting about Matrimandir, how I agree with Satprem when he said that Aurovilians would do better planting potatoes than doing meetings! And this was at least 20 years ago, when life here in the "City the Earth needs" was pretty more simple (at least there was less people to talk!)

Never mind, let's go ahead, we are still far from the 50,000 heads envisaged (frankly speaking, I would prefer 50,000 souls) and there is a lot more to discuss, isn't right?

The Matrimandir issue particularly is thornier than any other precisely because we mistake the head for the soul and the first tendency of the mind is "discutere" (cut into pieces, in Latin, discuss) instead of putting everything together, unite in a harmonious whole.

And to complicate the situation, it seems that Mother said different things about the Matrimandir gardens, for instance) to different persons in different occasions. What each one (according to his/her natural tendencies and preferences) has kindly converted in a dogma, an exclusive approach, providing in this way with a most rich and abundant menu to feed the appetite for polemics and controversy (Poor Mother, she did not mean that!)

Well, what to do? Every Aurovilian, so to say, believes to know best what she wanted – we are all a bunch of architects, gardeners, landscapers and so on. "Know how" isn't what is missing here. But humanity, trust, surrender, the willingness to agree and let go our preferences in order to accomplish Her work on Earth, of these things we are still a bit short. Of course they are the hardest to achieve, but precisely the ones which would really make of Auroville "the city that earth needs" (and how badly it needs!)

Jivatman.

Building Trust in Auroville

While I like the feel of the paper for 'a proposal for a decision making process' and appreciate the dedicated effort that has gone in to preparing it, I am not sure it will be accepted or will work in Auroville. The problem will be the council (unity) and who will constitute its members. For even a well thought out voting system can not ensure that some people won't solicit their friends to vote for them or that we will trust an others choice.

There is a great lack of trust between Aurovilians. And this lack of trust presents itself in many aspects of our community life. Aurovilians downgrade each other, slander each other and block each other's progress. Because of this lack of trust many Aurovilians do not feel safe in Auroville. And the down effects from this lack of trust are injuring our credibility outside of Auroville. Many of our present difficulties .are fanned by our attitudes towards each other.

The most essential thing now is for us to heal this breach of trust. This has to be the next step for us to take to enable us to move forward and should be where we focus of our concentration.

I believe a Code of Conduct is now urgently needed in Auroville to help build this trust and give guidelines for creating better relations.

To formulate a Code of Conduct everybody should be invited say what he or she thinks should be included in a Code of Conduct for Auroville. I'm sure we would find many of these would have a common basis where from a list of 10 or 12 norms of conduct could be drawn up. For me it would be important to include (a) that absolutely nothing goes outside of Auroville that is slanderous to another or harmful to Auroville itself and (b) We must not defame an others reputation.

So how would that work?

If the community agreed that certain standards of ethics were necessary for the health and well being of Auroville, then the community itself would uphold these standards. That means that when someone is seen to be flagrantly breaking one of the constituents from the code of conduct that the whole community has agreed upon, then we would simply let that person know that we don't agree with what they are doing or saying. I am sure it will be greatly beginning to building trust in Auroville if the community were to agree on certain standards of ethics. It would also help make us all feel safer in Auroville.

I believe this present moment to be a moment of truth and this is world wide not just in Auroville. We must not let this moment of truth slip through our hands..

Anne.

Add Happiness and Joy to Your Life

Among all creatures, cats and dogs have a universal appeal to human beings. Even our "Divine Mother" who came to hue a path for a new species on earth, and who was not encouraging pre-occupation with 'live-stock', was not an exception to this. If memory serves me right, she herself once said that she had spent hours together in observing cats and studying their ways. The way she used to 'cook' (make puddings) for cats.....wow, even a chef could learn from it!

In a short biography of the Mother, the German writer Wilfred says to the effect that flowers and cats are full of psychic element! At any rate, it is beyond doubt that that cats are evolved species in the sense that seals, according to the Mother, are evolved species.

The way a cat sits, rests, runs and trusts you has a charm of its own. And when the kittens play, an image of fresh dancing waters flowing down the hills in a forest describes the seen aptly. But too many dogs and cats surrounding oneself are not good.

During one of her conversations with Aurovilians, the Mother expressed her concerns when she knew that there were too many cats and dogs at the Aspiration. And she even showed a way how to get rid of them. (take them all far away to an uninhabited area and loose free).

But definitely the presence of one or two cats in a home add happiness and joy to the home-dwellers. If you want this assured happiness and joy, let me know. My cat has laid three kittens about 15 days back. They are now in the kindergarten of kittens and, as they grow, will enrich your life in a humble way. If you don't believe me, ask someone in Auroville who has a cat or kitten.

My office Phone No. are 622 168 & 622 277.
Residence at Fertile Windmill. Before comming, pl. confirm timings over phone.

Aryadeep

FOR SALE

High quality trekking shoes, size 42 / 43, like new.
Price new 9 000 Rs, sacrificed at 4000 Rs.
Available at Pour Tous shopping service,
Diksha