

Revision to ZAH Bylaws – Existing Articles 1-9 No Changes
Addition of New Article on Atash Kadeh

ARTICLE 10
ATASH KADEH

10.1 Introduction. Under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Zoroastrian Association of Houston, hereinafter referred to as “ZAH”, and Feroze and Shernaz Bhandara, trustees of [the Bhandara Foundation](#), hereinafter referred to as “Donors”, the Donors have agreed to defray the cost of construction of an Atash Kadeh, to be a stand-alone structure on the grounds of ZAH. The Atash Kadeh, hereinafter referred to as “the Property”, will be wholly owned by the ZAH. It will be managed and administered by the Atash Kadeh Governing Body, herein after referred to as “Governing Body” as defined in Article 10.3 hereunder.

10.2 Objectives: To expand the objectives as stated in Article 2 of these Bylaws by providing for:

- (a) Place of worship for all Zoroastrians.
- (b) Facilities for the observance of the religious customs, rituals, practices and traditions of the Zoroastrian religion, the preservation, dissemination and advancement thereof.
- (c) Facilities for the celebration of Zoroastrian religious feasts, rituals and ceremonies.

10.3 Management and administration. The Atash Kadeh will be managed and administered by a Governing Body comprising five [5] members whose composition and terms of office shall be as under:

- (a) Two [2] Zoroastrians to be appointed by the Donors to serve for a period at the pleasure of the Donors. The Donors shall have the right to replace either or both of them at any time.
- (b) One [1] to be elected by the ZAH members from among the ZAH membership, who is also a [North American Mobed Council \(NAMC\)](#) member residing in the greater Houston metropolitan area [who has been a resident for at least 5 years](#), to serve for the first elected period of two (2) years, and thereafter a member shall be elected to serve for a period of four (4) years. In the event a NAMC member is not available for election, then an ordained Zoroastrian priest, recognized by the NAMC shall qualify for election, all other requirements shall remain unchanged.
- (c) Two [2] to be elected by the members of ZAH at their annual general meeting, one at the first election for an initial period of two (2) years and the other for a period of four [4] years from among those ZAH members who have been members for a continuous period of no less than ten [10] years. Thereafter both members will be elected to serve for a period of four (4) years.

No member of the Governing Body shall simultaneously serve on the ZAH Executive Committee. No elected member of the Governing Body may serve for more than two consecutive terms, unless otherwise approved by an 80% majority vote at the meeting of the General Body. No two (2) elected members of an immediate family may serve at the same time on the Governing Body.

A majority of the Governing Body members shall constitute a quorum for all purposes at any meeting of the Governing Body. No proxies shall be given by the Governing Body members for the purposes of voting or establishing a quorum at a Governing Body meeting.

In the event two or more elected members of the Governing Body are unable to serve, a special meeting of ZAH shall be called within two (2) months to elect the replacement of the departing members to serve for the remainder of their terms.

The Governing Body from among themselves shall elect every two years a Chairman and Secretary. This does not prevent the same member to be reelected to such office for subsequent two year terms. In the event that such officer is unable to fulfill the duties and obligations of their office, then the Governing Body may elect an alternate at any time.

10.4 Duties and responsibilities of the Governing Body.

- (a) To ensure that the Property is kept in good repair at all times.
- (b) To keep the Property clean and well maintained at all times as befitting a place of worship.
- (c) To ensure adherence of requirements of Article 10.5 hereunder.
- (d) To receive and acquire gifts, donations, legacies and devices.
- (e) To define, update and ensure compliance with the operating guidelines of the Atash Kadeh.
- (f) To maintain minutes of all meetings held by them. A copy of the approved minutes shall be submitted to the EC in a timely manner.
- (g) To prepare a budget for each year to be presented to the Executive Committee and to submit an account of all incomes and expenses, including but not limited to donations and fees received for ceremonies held in the Property, expenses incurred in the upkeep, maintenance and repair of the Property, etc. to the Executive Committee prior to the close of each financial year. The EC will assist the Governing Body with raising funds to cover any shortfall.
- (h) The fiscal year for all purposes shall be the same as that in Article 13.1.
- (i) To present a report and accounts for the preceding fiscal year to the ZAH members at their Annual General Meeting.
- (j) To solicit the help and/or recruit the assistance of any person in carrying out or furthering the objectives laid out in this Article.

10.5 Rules for Use of the Property.

- (a) The Property shall be accessible at all times, and during all rituals and ceremonies performed therein for:
 - i. All ZAH members and their families ,
 - ii. Zoroastrian non-members and their families, and
 - iii. Non-Zoroastrians who are not ZAH members when accompanied by a ZAH member.
- (b) Only Zoroastrian prayers, rituals and ceremonies, consistent with traditional practices in India/Pakistan/Iran, shall be performed only by ordained Zoroastrian priests, that are recognized by the NAMC.
- (c) Rituals and ceremonies, including Navjote of a child of at least one Zoroastrian parent, marriage ceremonies of couples of whom at least one is a Zoroastrian, and post-funeral ceremonies, such as Sarosh and Uthamna, for deceased members of ZAH, non member Zoroastrians, or their Zoroastrian relatives, shall be performed only by ordained Zoroastrian priests, as recognized by the NAMC.

10.6 Amendment of Article 10. Amendment to Article 10 of these by-laws shall require unanimous agreement of the Governing Body of the Atash Kadeh and minimum of 90% majority vote from the eligible member's present, as specified in Article 12.3.

Renumber Existing Article 10→ 11, 11→12 & 12→13

Modification to Article 12 – AMENDMENTS: Add new section

12.3 Amendment to Article 10 of these bylaws shall require unanimous agreement of the Governing Body of the Atash Kadeh and minimum of 90% majority vote from the eligible members present. The quorum for the meeting at which amendments to Article 10 are proposed shall in no event be less than one-third of all of the members, to be present in person.