

Minutes of the MZMC Board Meeting

July 29, 2018

Board members present: Rebekah Anderson, Karen Davis, Paul Gilsdorf (via Skype), Wayne Moskowitz, Jim Niland, Randy Wedin

Board members absent: Janet Brown, Mark Turbak

Staff members and priests present: Ann Bauleke, Tim Burkett, Ted O'Toole

Staff members absent: Admin. Director

Other MZMC members present: Pat Stahl

1. Approve June 24, 2018 Minutes – 5 minutes

The minutes were modified slightly and approved; motion by Randy, seconded by Wayne.

Action Item: Rebekah to communicate change to Admin. for the final version she keeps on file.

2. Disclose any Conflicts of Interest – 2 minutes

None.

3. Building Committee and Capital Campaign Committee – (Ted and Rebekah) – 45-60 minutes

Ted and Rebekah reviewed the request they had previously emailed to Board members asking for support to proceed with information-gathering for the Building Committee to prepare building maintenance and renovation options that would cost \$400K, \$600K, and \$800K. They will then share the \$800K project with large donors and seek input regarding the value of the project and the feasibility of raising that much money. Their feedback will help us steer our project and our fundraising toward the right price point. The Board supported Ted's and Rebekah's approach.

This topic stirred a lot of discussion. Selected Board members and others made the following comments:

- Tim – believes we have to factor a bank loan into our plans. How much can we borrow? How much should we borrow?
- Ann – does not believe Ted and Rebekah were inclusive enough of the rest of the Building Committee in reaching this point. Believes building stewardship needs to be the top priority. Believes we should engage an architect at this point and be sure to keep overall building aesthetics in mind. Can support a dollar amount beyond fixing things, but it has to be done right.
- Wayne – recapped how we've gotten to this point. Doesn't want us to raise \$800 but doesn't want to stand in the way. Believes we need to better document our decision-making in order not to keep turning over the same ground we have been turning for years. Is reluctant to borrow

money to expand capacity – would prefer to see us raise the money first. Has a good contact at a bank for bridge financing for non-profits and would be happy to make that connection

- Tim – is concerned that a modest Stewardship Campaign, with a primary focus on maintenance, may be hard to raise money for
- Karen – appreciates the interest and energy in investigating options beyond stewardship – would like to explore the possibilities for more
- Randy – supportive of a 2nd feasibility study – more excited about a bigger vision. Likes the idea of “honoring the past (one reason we’re staying here), living in the present (honoring dim vision of providing a space for future generations). We may find contributors outside our little sangha.
- Jim – the decision of whether or not we can expand our footprint feels like a big go-no go type factor. He has a connection to City Council member, Lisa Bender, and is happy to reach out to her to see if should could influence decisions
- Pat – Pat connected with Rick Okada, architect for Hokyoji, at recent tea ceremony gathering. He would be happy to reach out to Rich if we wish
- Janet (Ted read her statement, since she was absent) – concerned that, in spite of more dollars, we still may not hit adequate accessibility needs. She supports razing the building and starting construction anew, or selling the building and finding a new space

Motion: Rebekah moved that Ted and Rebekah work with the Building Committee to gather further information to identify options for building maintenance and renovation work that would best meet our needs at \$400K, \$600K, and \$800K levels. This work would result in a proposal to the Board at the October meeting that includes projects, prices. and priorities. Ted and Rebekah will also produce a plan for the 2nd level Feasibility Study and share a proposal re: that plan with the Board at the October meeting. Randy seconded the motion, and the Board approved.

Additional Action Item: Ted, Rebekah, Wayne and Admin. to explore financing options for our building maintenance and renovation project. This includes exploring how much we can borrow and availability of a bridge loan. The Board will discuss financing options at its October meeting.

Additional Action Item: The Building Committee will explore whether we can expand our building footprint without triggering expensive building code requirements and report back to the Board.

Additional Action Item: The Building Committee will reach out to Rick Okada to explore options for getting his insights or contracting for his professional services and report back to the Board.

Additional Action Item: Ted and Rebekah to share a Project Charter and Timeline at the August Board meeting.

4. **Mindfulness At Work Update – Pat – 10 minutes**

- Our efforts are coming along well – we are actively recruiting sponsors, media work is underway, people are starting to register
- Board members are urged to reach out to connections who might be interested in sponsoring and/or attending
- Location for the program has changed from Wilder to St. Thomas Univ in downtown Mpls
- The bigger Mindfulness At Work effort, to reach out to individual organizations, is on hold right now until we complete our fall event

5. Administrative Update - Admin.

We agreed to defer this, since Admin. was not present at the meeting

6. Teacher Update – (Tim and Ted) – 15 minutes

Tim

- Starting in Jan 2019 we will have two dharma talks and two teas on Sunday mornings, rather than one. We will stick with one Intro Class on Sunday mornings. On Tuesdays, dharma talks will be delivered by the priests-in-training, so will be different than the Sunday talks. Ted shared that Tuesdays may have a thematic component.
- Appointments
 - Matt Cisler is chiden
 - Ann Bauleke is new Ino
 - Bill Woywod is new Assistant Ino
 - We need another Tea Cook, Doan, and Greeter for the 2nd Sunday service
- Guest Teacher Alan Senauke, from Berkeley Zen Center to do a public talk Sept 7 and a workshop Sept 8
- In May 2019, Norm Fischer to return to MZMC
- Ted & Tim giving back to back talks on Sunday mornings re: MZMC mission and values; these talks stem from their presentations at the Board Spring Retreat

Ted

- The past 2 weeks have been pretty full with sangha events including a funeral, a wedding, and a special service for Mark and Corinne's new premature baby
- Racial Justice workshops are coming up in Sept and Oct; Leadership Group already had the training and it was excellent

7. Membership Update – Randy – 10 minutes

- The Summer Picnic potluck will be held next Sat and will include music
- The Membership Committee had a tour of the library by Benton, who serves as librarian and is passionate about the library. We would like to communicate this as just one of the many valuable member benefits.
- Karen Madsen can no longer serve on the Membership Committee because of her illness. We are setting up a special Facebook to coordinate help for Karen. Ted will talk to Karen about how best to capture her remarkable story.
- We are planning tours of the library and website for members

8. New Business -

- Karen introduced the idea of reducing the number of regular Board meetings, maybe by half. We would keep 1-2 Board retreats annually. Karen will reach out to Board members to get their ideas and feedback.

9. Adjourn - Motion by Randy; seconded by Jim