

Minutes of Board Meeting

February 21, 2016

Board members present: Wayne Moskowitz, Karen Davis, Deb Mielke, Randy Wedin, and Jodi Williams

Board members absent: Paul Gilsdorf, Bussho Lahn, and Susan Nelson

Staff present: Tim Burkett, Ben Connelly, A.D., and Ted O'Toole

Other priests present: none

Other MZMC members present: Lana

Attachments/handouts: "Beloved Community" workshop flyer, 2015 Financial Results

1. January 2016 Minutes

The minutes will be approved at a future meeting.

2. Disclose any Conflicts of Interest

None were disclosed.

3. Facility Development Update

Ben Connelly reported that the expanded plans from Tea2 Architects have not yet been completed. The Committee recommended that, at the upcoming Annual meeting, the timeline for the facility development project (but not the inspirational image) be presented to the Sangha.

4. Discussion of Fundraising Efforts

The Board discussed various themes for the upcoming annual appeal in May. Ideas suggested included the following:

- "We are growing"
- Need to maintain foundation
- Emphasize important role of administrative staff
- "Mind the gap"

The group settled on a theme stressing growth and people. A.D. requested that any ideas about images and/or text be sent to her by the end of March. A small group—Rosemary, Ted, and A.D.—will work on this project.

The group discussed several other items related to fundraising, including:

- A perpetual fundraising calendar
- A garage sale in June (Karen, Deb, and Wayne expressed interest in helping)
- A tea ceremony in the fall
- Consideration of ways that the regular electronic contributions by members might be symbolized during the passing of the Dana bowl

5. Annual Meeting Agenda

The group discussed potential candidates for the Board. There is one retirement from the Board this year, so at least one Board position is open. It is possible that the Board could be expanded and a second director elected. The Board decided to approach both Jim Niland and Molly Hapgood to determine their willingness to stand for election at the Annual Meeting on March 20.

The group discussed the topics and presenters for the upcoming hour-long Annual Meeting:

- Nominations and Election (Susan responsible for balloting process)

- Facility Development (Ben)
- Programming (Tim/Ted)
- Membership and Financials (A.D./Bussho)
 - A.D. reported that final 2015 results show a \$30,000 net surplus.
- Announcement of Election Results

6. Teacher Report

Ted reported that MZMC is cosponsoring an event with three other local Zen Centers—“Beloved Community: Mindfulness and Deep Listening” (April 9, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Clouds in Water Zen Center). Speakers are Rev. Larry Ward, Ph.D., and Peggy Rowe Ward, Ed.D.

Ted outlined the priest training process, which includes a formal curriculum of 20 sessions over a period of 2 ½ years, as well as 18 days of retreat per year. MZMC’s training process is informed by a training document developed by the Soto Zen Buddhist Association (SZBA). Currently in training are Ann B. (taught by Tim), Darla R. (taught by Bussho), Bill W. (taught by Tim), and Mark T. (taught by Ted).

7. Upcoming Leadership Workshop with Norman Fischer (March 25)

The group discussed event publicity, which will include a website going live next week, and current registration numbers (about 60 registrants).

8. Administrative Report

A.D. reported that the asbestos removal project is now complete. Future projects could include the removal of the gas tank in the back and installation of a radon mitigation system.

The group reviewed the 2015 financial results.

Deb moved, and Karen seconded that a payroll service be hired to handle payroll administration on an ongoing basis. The motion passed.

9. Items for the Next Meeting and Board Terms

Wayne reported that this was the final Board meeting for Jodi Williams. Members of the Board expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude for her three years of service on the Board, especially her exemplary service as Board Chair in 2013-14 during a very critical time for the Sangha. In particular, Board members praised her guts, courage, energy, and commitment. Jodi said that it has been a pleasure and honor to serve on the Board.

At the Board meeting in April, Ted will give a talk to new Board members. Wayne has agreed to serve another year as Board Chair. Other officer positions may need to be filled, and a new Membership Chair will be needed.

10. New Business

No new business.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was moved by Karen, seconded by Deb, and passed unanimously.