

# February 20, 2022 MZMC Board Minutes

Board Members Attending In-Person: Katie Albright, Deb Mielke, Jim Niland, Randy Wedin

Board Members Attending via Zoom: Paul Gilsdorf, Tanja Nelson, Mark Turbak

Staff Attending In-Person: Guiding Teacher Ted O'Toole, Administrative Director

Community Members Attending In-Person: Patrick Stahl, Jeromy Thotland, Aaron Mowbray

Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m.

1. Approval of January, 2022 Minutes: Motion to approve as amended Jim N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Katie A. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Conflicts of Interest: None noted
3. Teacher Report (Ted O'Toole): Ted said he is considering when to drop the zendo COVID masking mandate, and monitoring the number of cases closely. He said we may loosen the mandate for speakers—and when we are eating and drinking. So hopefully we can resume indoor tea, etc. for the Mar. 25-27 retreat. He hopes to make a decision by Mar. 16 and welcomes input by e-mail.

Ted said things are going well. On July 1 we should have a full roster of temple officers—we only have one left to recruit. The next shusho ceremony is scheduled. We will be ordaining four new priests in Nov., and three additional people are entering priest training. Randy Wedin is becoming a lay teacher. Larry Ward and Peggy Rowe are lined up as repeat guest speakers. The DEIA work is continuing. On Mar. 1-4 we host a restorative circle training. We are developing a relationship with our neighborhood group Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA)—especially their Peace Center where some of our priests may hold meditation sessions.

Ted informed the board he is getting to know Arctic explorer Will Steger, and is working on an event with him. Will directs the Steger Wilderness Center near Ely, MN—and perhaps people from MZMC would go there (including for a work weekend in Aug.) Will plans on dropping by Ted and Janet's climate change class. The event Ted and Will are working on is an Apr. 8 talk at MZMC.

4. Board Retreat Details for Saturday, Mar. 5: Randy said an agenda will be sent out before the retreat—with some pre-retreat homework. Since part of the retreat will be drafting our next 4-year goals the previous 4-year goals will also be sent out. Part of the retreat will also be talking about our vision for MZMC in 5 and 10 years. Admin. said Randy will be the overall facilitator of the retreat—with some board members asked to facilitate certain sections. Breakfast and lunch will be served with dairy and gluten-free options.
5. Board Nominee Discussion: Admin. passed out a draft document on the board election process. Since Randy Wedin and Paul Gilsdorf are leaving the board there will be 2 open slots. Randy walked through the elections process—and said we will have a private ballot in-person and on-line with 2 candidates for the 2 open slots. Randy said the nominations committee to recommend 2 candidates to the board for the 2 open slots was Ted O'Toole, Deb Mielke, Admin.,

and himself. Admin. said an e-mail would go out to all MZMC members in the following week about those 2 candidates.

6. Annual Meeting Planning (Admin. and Ted O'Toole): At the Mar. 20 annual hybrid meeting there will be a short service and short dharma talk—with the talk related to the installation of a new statue on the altar to replace the current Mahapajapati statue. The meeting will start around 10:30 with Ted welcoming attendees and handing off to Randy who will introduce the board members. Then Admin. and Jim will help conduct the board election process—Randy will announce the election results. The meeting will be focused on the past year—eg. the capital campaign and the financial report. Ted will also talk about programming, the priests and teachers, zendo officers, and dealing with COVID.

7. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee (Tanja Nelson) We achieved our membership drive goal, and we are extremely grateful to our members. We will of course continue our work to recruit new members during the upcoming year.

There will be a hybrid movie nite on Mar. 4. The April social Friday has been moved from Apr. 8 because of the Will Steger event that nite. The next membership committee meeting will be Feb. 27. There will be an on-line member tea on Apr. 29 and an in-person one on May 20. When the weather improves we will start the Thurs. pm sits by the lake again, and there will be a summer picnic.

Technology Committee (Paul Gilsdorf) Paul thanked tech team members for their work. There will be regular tech committee meetings the first Sun. of every month from 11:30 till 12:30.

Audio and automation are works in progress. Paul will be getting a mixer and mike from Chris up in Duluth.

Paul asked since some people are calling into Sun. dharma talks by phone do we want to put phone number call—in info on the website? Mark said giving Tues. dharma talks has been remarkably smooth.

We are beefing up the computer in the basement to be the server for everything.

Building Committee (Admin.) Admin. said two members were interested in our facility management position but neither had definitely accepted it. She passed out the job description and stressed any requests for work should go through her.

Admin. is working on the air exchanger in the zendo not operating properly. The vent hood is installed in the kitchen and has been working well. We need a portable table on wheels, and a chopping block.

We are also looking for a landscape designer. Jeromy said Hokyoji had just had a good experience with one—and that he would get Admin. their contact info.

8. Katagiri Project Update (Admin.): Andrea Martin has been our conservator for the Katagiri Project. Admin. informed the board about MZMC's copyright to the material and discussed some relevant issues.

9. Admin. Report (Admin.): We recently found out a deceased long-time member (the same one who had bequeathed his home to MZMC) had a retirement investment account bequeathed to MZMC. The board considered whether to distribute that money to the member's beneficiaries in the same shares as we had distributed the proceeds of the house sale. The beneficiaries aren't requesting distribution of this investment. The estate should be closed in the coming months. Motion for MZMC to keep the entire proceeds of the BMO Harris account Deb M. 2<sup>nd</sup> Katie A. Motion carried unanimously.

Admin. handed out her financial report—saying the only significant updates were that membership dues were exceeding projections and over budget by 20%, and that heating costs have gone through the roof. She also said Jeromy and her were working on reprogramming the thermostats, and some other projects.

10. New Business: Admin. thanked Mark for reaching out to large contributors to the building project to acknowledge their contributions. Katie mentioned some local centers had a presence on the Insight Timer app, and the board agreed we should look into our center doing so as well.
11. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn Paul G. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark T. Motion carried unanimously at 1:29 pm.

Next meeting Sun., Apr. 24 11:30 am-1:30 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Jim Niland