

MZMC Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, August 21st, 2022

Members attending in person: Deb Mielke, Tanja Nelson, Jim Niland, Katie Albright

Members attending via Zoom: Carrie Garcia, Mark Turbak

Staff attending in person: Admministartor, Ted O'Toole

Community members attending in person: Jeromy Thotland, Phil Johnson, Wayne Moskowitz (until noon)

Meeting came to order at 11:35 am

1. Conflicts of interest: none noted
2. Minutes: Motion to approve last month's minutes – Deb M., second – Jim N.; approved.
3. Teacher report (Ted): Attendance has been good. Ted gave a dharma talk this month explaining priest training and ordination. We have some new temple officer positions – Assistant Work Leader will be Kent Allen, and Tech Leader will be Phil Johnson. Doan trainings have been happening. Ted is considering whether to have some programming that is not hybrid (online and in person together). The intro classes will stay hybrid for now, but in the next year there may be some parallel, rather than hybrid, programming, like sesshins. The Steger Center work practice is next weekend, and the 50th Anniversary celebration is in two weeks. The Soto Zen Buddhist Association conference is also coming up – Ted will be presenting, and Ben Connelly will have a role as interim president. The Hokyoji retreat is in late September, led by Ted and Susan Nelson. This fall/ winter there will be two dharma transmissions and four ordinations. We are having conversations about building security, and the need to balance welcoming and safety.
4. DEIA report (Ted): There was no meeting of the committee in August. We had our first Awakening to Race meeting, and they will continue every two months. We had a table at the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association festival where Wayne and Jeromy answered questions. On October 9th we will have a joint Sunday talk with the Minneapolis Jodo Shinshu temple. We are striving to bring in more teachers who are women and people of color – Larry Ward and Peggy Rowe will be returning, and Carol Iwata recently gave a talk about Asian-American erasure in American Buddhism and the importance of BIPOC sitting groups. There was discussion about ways to acknowledge our debt to Asian Americans and educate ourselves on the topic.
5. Membership report (Tanja): We had our first member-led event, a visit to the Japanese textile exhibit at Mia, which 8 people attended. We talked about barriers to participation and how to reduce them. The membership drive will run through October,

November, and December, and in September the board will begin discussing our goals for this effort. Blank Friday is the next scheduled event.

6. 50th Anniversary Celebration (Kim): Board members are invited to the more formal Friday night event. Saturday morning there will be a walk around the lake, in the afternoon there will be a gathering in the back yard with people speaking, and on Sunday there will be a panel discussion with Ted, Tim Burkett, and Karen Sunna (remotely). Invitations went out to the neighborhood as well as the MZMC community. Hopefully the t-shirts will be in!
7. Bylaws and Governance review: Pronouns have been made non-gendered and titles made consistent throughout the document. We want to make sure that all employees are subject to the ethics requirements. The minutes from past board meetings are being digitized for easier access. As an aside, there was a discussion about creating an information repository for temple officers, what digital tools to use, and how to coordinate it. Tanja volunteered to organize this. We will look at the mission statement in upcoming meetings.
8. Administration report : There has been more activity lately, bringing us closer to our revenue goal s under classes and retreats and weekly dana contributions. Moving fundraising to once a year puts more pressure on the single 2022 membership/donation drive. Membership creates sustaining support, rather than yearly or one-time donations we can't plan for. Recent larger expenditures include bulk purchases of supplies and deferred maintenance. We currently have an operating deficit, since we have intentionally not done as much fundraising as usual. The membership drive may bring us back into balance. When we have more excess funds we should establish a capital maintenance fund, aiming for \$50,000 to \$100,000 eventually.
9. New business: The estate payout has had legal delays. The shelter has had permit delays from surveyors. John Bruhn and Pat Canby have done a great deal of work on the landscaping – Jim made a motion to officially thank them, which was seconded by Tanja. “Thank you John and Pat for your amazing work on the building and grounds, restoring things beautifully after the new construction.” We are still in need of a snow removal person or company. The Owl teleconferencing device has been tested, and has worked well so far, but we are not committed yet.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.