

MZMC Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 16th, 2023

Members attending in person: Deb Mielke, Matt Streit, Jim Niland, Katie Albright

Members attending via Zoom: Carrie Garcia, Tanja Nelson

Staff attending in person: Ted O'Toole and Administrative Director

Meeting came to order at 11:35 am

1. Welcome (Deb)
2. Conflicts of Interest: none
3. Approval of Minutes: Jim N. moved to approve the minutes from the May board meeting (there was no meeting in June). Deb M. seconded. Motion passed. Deb also reminded us to bring suggestions for a new board member.
4. Guiding Teacher Report (Ted): The ordination ceremony for Phil Johnson, Chris Modec-Halverson, and Meredith Seaborn went well, and they have had their first priest meeting. Ted will be in Bemidji July 28th-30th to help his student Elijah establish a group there. He will be offering a talk, a retreat, and a dharma discussion, and will be joined by Evan. There were two cases of norovirus in the building, leading to a canceled retreat and a thorough cleaning of the building. Community members expressed appreciation for the abundance of caution, and we were reminded of the usefulness of having the phone numbers of retreat participants. Will Steger is back from his expedition and will focus on improving the infrastructure at the retreat center. We may plan a visit for 2024. Will is joining Tom Goodell and Ted in offering a leadership training in the fall, which may be offered to the business community and will hopefully bring in some revenue. The volunteer appreciation event was well received and should be an annual event, maybe always in June. There was discussion of the challenges of finding Tuesday night greeters, since it's a long, late night. We will include in the announcements that a walking partner to your car is available. Ted is optimistic about how things are going! On August 12th Bussho will lead a new offering called a Day of Practice, a retreat with less emphasis on zazen and more variety of ways to practice.
5. DEIA (Ted): There was a Racial Justice Action event on the anniversary of George Floyd's death - 18 people from MZMC attended a vigil at 38th and Chicago. The next event is Healing Minnesota Stories, presentations given at Dakota sites. This one will be on August 26th, led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs at Btode (Fort Snelling State Park), with a donation requested. The Intro teachers meeting had a DEIA component. We have a diverse group of speakers lined up, and a visit from a sewing teacher. There will be a thank you tea for Rosemary. We are planning another joint service with the Twin Cities

Buddhist Association. Participants in the children's program are invited to a potluck with their families, in addition to the sangha picnic. The committee will spend more time discussing the survey results. Carrie reports that the POC sitting group remains small but important.

6. Administration and Fundraising (Admin): We are in the black. Income from classes and retreats is still strong using the donation suggestion model. The summer appeal is in progress. We have lots of new members. We have received revenue from teachers donating income from outside teaching. We are in the process of setting up a reader to take credit card contributions, and will hopefully have it ready by September 1st. Admin explained the larger expense items on the profit & loss report, mostly bulk purchases and special events. Computer fees should have a larger budgeted amount. We are underspending for now but should not count on that continuing. We should develop strategies for consistent donation requests in our communication. We hosted another wedding and are working on ways to improve the rental process. The member drive will begin in November, and there will be a gentle suggestion on the New Years cards. We are currently at half our goal for the summer appeal.
7. Membership (Tanja): We had a new member tea in June with about 12 people attending. It seems to work well doing this three times a year. The sangha picnic is next Saturday. The committee is planning another walk around the lake, hopefully in early September.
8. Review of Ethics and Conflict Resolution Policies (Deb): There is an emphasis on direct communication. These policies are part of priest training and should be discussed early and often with priests. In order to protect ourselves, complaints should be formal and go through channels. We should also make sure temple officers are aware of these policies. Maybe ethics could be included in a dharma talk.
9. Annual Goal Review (Deb): Focus 1 and 2 are well-covered. Fiona will have a sewing retreat in the fall. We are encouraging the development of a new MZMC sewing teacher, ideally a transmitted teacher. Focus 3 – The variance for the viewing shelter has been submitted and the shelter and the rain garden can proceed. We should do an asset management study to inform our maintenance plan. We are working on a funding plan for maintenance and for technology. Focus 4 – We still need to look at the mission, vision, and values statement. There is an audit coming up in September. Focus 5 and 6 look good.
10. New Business and Calendar Review (Admin): No meeting in November. December date will be third Sunday.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.