

MZMC Board Meeting Minutes June 24, 2012

Members Present: Dennis Farmer, Ben Connelly (VP), Cindy Wetzell (Sec.), Shaun Morrell, Lee Lewis (pres), Monica Reede, Ted O'Toole, Jen Racho, Admin Director (AD), Tim Burkett (Guiding Teacher)

Members Absent: Matt Larson (on leave through Aug '12)

Meeting called to order by Lee.

Minutes reviewed and accepted (MSP)

Report from the Guiding Teacher

- he is meeting with the priests on a regular basis
- they are discussing, in part, how to provide more leadership to the sangha; what a lay-practitioner training path might look like; how to provide senior students who are not interested in becoming priests with more support
- Norm Fisher will be coming next May as a guest lecturer--sponsored by MZMC and other zen centers in the Twin Cities

Administrative Director Report

- AD provided the Board with a Profit/Loss Statement
- ZC is currently in the red by about \$10,000 (Jan-May 2012)
 - only at 72% of budget projections
- however, the current fundraising campaign was not reflected because this started in June
- we budgeted to begin with for a fuller, more sustainable budget in 2012

Plan for Board Development (Ben)

- discussed very briefly the results of the survey the Board members took several months ago
- Cindy and Ben will report fully in August

Current Committees

- Fundraising, Jen Racho chair
- Finance, Dennis Farmer chair
- Membership, Ted O'Toole chair
- Strategic Planning, Lee Lewis chair

Fundraising--the first meeting to be held Monday, June 25

Finance--this was originally the Budget Committee; they typically meet in the fall because that is when the budget is presented to the Board; may move to more frequent meetings; at one point Financing and Fundraising were the same committee

Membership--want to have 3 member-events/year; yesterday was a members-only potluck which was successful and fun; there will be a reception for Kyoki Roberts in August at Ted's house; there will be something for the launching of the Katagiri project with Andrea Martin; there is a membership table the 1st Sunday of the month after lecture, during tea; there will soon be member name tags (starting July 1); there is no annual work plan yet; there will not be any more volunteer appreciation events sponsored by the membership committee; 6 new members since April

29; steady increase in new members; priests and Board members will be informed who new members are

Strategic Planning

- in midst of SP process
- meeting every other week
- from stakeholders retreat, consultants developed 3 scenarios and the committee is meeting about these with the consultants
- Sarah Strickland has now moved to Maine but will continue to work with MZMC
- Next steps for the Board? At the July meeting something will come back to the Board

for action

- a community meeting will be scheduled to discuss the final scenarios
- reviewed current scenarios presented by Cincinnatus

Board Calendar

- this drives the Board and the committee agendas
- AD reviewed the monthly items
- in addition to quarterly email updates, may start in-person Q&A after lecture on a quarterly basis with AD and Lee (or other Board member)
- committee annual work plans should dovetail with Board calendar

Annual Board Survey of Sangha

- report from Ben
- may incorporate strategic planning items/ideas
- because of strategic planning process may not have survey at usual time because of community meeting with Cincinnatus
- there will eventually be a community survey for feedback on strategic planning process

Music in the Garden

- Matt organizing this for August 4
- Leo Hansen top bill with other musicians
- discussed possibility of hiring PR person for publicity
- ask for free will donations--"soft ask" so this doesn't look like another fundraising event
- directly invite immediate neighbors (door knocking)
- Jen volunteered to get a story in the media re Leo
- maybe someone in the ZC community could do posters

Joyce Food Shelf

- March food drive a success (over 250 pounds of food and \$200), all matched by MN Food Share
- new drive for kids on summer vacation will begin July 1. Also matched by MN Food Share

Next Board meeting July 22 11:30-1:30 (July meeting was subsequently canceled.)

MSP for adjournment