

# January 16, 2022 MZMC Board Minutes

Board Members Attending via Zoom: Katie Albright, Deb Mielke, Paul Gilsdorf, Tanja Nelson Jim Niland, Mark Turbak, Randy Wedin

Staff Attending via Zoom: Guiding Teacher Ted O'Toole, Administrative Director

Community Members Attending via Zoom: Patrick Stahl, Jeromy Thotland

Meeting called to order at 11:35 a.m.

1. Approval of November, 2021 and December, 2021 Minutes: Motion to approve as amended Paul G. 2<sup>nd</sup> Deborah M. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Conflicts of Interest: None noted
3. Teacher Report (Ted O'Toole): Ted said things are going pretty well with the exception of the building being closed again because of COVID—except for weekday zazen and Mon. and Wed. evening zazen. He said the decision to close was a good process even though not unanimous. (People who need access like priests will have it.) Despite the closure peak attendance at this morning's Zoom dharma talk was 82. Hopefully our zendo will re-open soon as the number of COVID cases declines.

Ted said the Feb. retreat will be virtual-only—as well as Tim Burkett's workshop on resiliency. Ben Connelly's class and Ted and Janet Brown's class are underway. The start of the children's program will be delayed until Mar. 6 and will run until Apr. 11.

4. Board Retreat and 2022 Calendar (Randy Wedin): Our board will continue to meet in 2022 at its usual day & time of third Sundays of the month from 11:30 am-1:30 pm—apart from the conflicts with the retreat in May and Father's Day in June when the board will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month at the same time.

There will be a board retreat on Sat., Mar. 5 from 9 am-3 pm at Deborah Mielke's house. Tanja Nelson asked if we would have a facilitator for the retreat and the board did not decide that question at this meeting. Since the retreat will have breakfast treats Tanja Nelson noted her preference for dairy-free and gluten-free.

5. Board Nomination and Annual Meeting Update (Randy Wedin): A request for nominations for the board was sent out and is open to the end of Jan. Paul Gilsdorf and Randy Wedin announced they were stepping off the board—and the board thanked them for their service.

Paul Gilsdorf asked if we should try to recruit new board members with particular skills—eg. technology. It was noted we should be conscious of diversity in recruiting new board members. Admin Johnson said she would send out a list of MZMC members to the board so they could look for good potential recruits—those names should be sent to Randy and Admin.

6. Estate Update: The house of the long-time MZMC member who wanted some of the proceeds of the sale to go to MZMC has been sold for—and the estate will be reimbursed for the cost of maintaining the house for the last 9 months—e.g. tree removal. Admin is still working with former MZMC board member and former attorney Wayne Moskowitz to determine the best legal way to disburse the house sale proceeds to the estate and its beneficiaries. The estate is

still open so MZMC has not received any funds from it yet. Our board's decision to distribute the house sale proceeds to beneficiaries in the same shares as the estate was appreciated.

It was agreed there should be a public acknowledgement of the long-time MZMC member's generosity.

It was also discovered the long-time MZMC member had about a retirement fund with MZMC as the sole beneficiary. Admin. is checking into this and will have more information at the next meeting.

#### 7. Committee Reports:

**Membership Committee (Tanja Nelson)** The committee has made some date changes. Movie nite will be Fri., Mar. 4 and will be a movie on Dogen's life. Randy will be hosting a social Friday on Feb. 4., and another one will be coming up. They have also decided to do two member teas—one on-line and one in-person when the weather is nicer.

Deb hosted a social Friday in Jan. The New Year's Eve bell-ringing went well although some people mistakenly showed up in person.

Tanja said a big thank-you to Admin. Admin. said the membership drive was going well, and we will be extending it for a couple more weeks. The board talked about the remaining speakers for the drive.

**Technology Committee (Paul Gilsdorf)** The committee has taken a bit of a hiatus in the last month. The altar camera is up and running. The other camera by the pull-down screen for an overall view of the zendo is not yet up and running-and they are ordering some technology to help with that.

Jeremy is continuing to work on automation. Chris Modec-Halverson will be donating a mixer board.

Paul asked how classes are going on Zoom. We still need a troubleshooter available for those.

**Building Committee** Admin. is working with committee chair Wayne to transition the committee to dealing with upcoming building issues in Admin's purview now the capital campaign is successfully concluded. We thought we had a handyperson lined up but that has fallen through-so we will keep recruiting. The zendo floor "fix" is completed and paid for. Last week we settled our last bill with capital campaign builder Flannery.

8. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend (Admin): Ted and Admin have been working on this. Admin walked through the draft schedule of Fri., Sept. 9-Sun., Sept. 11, 2022. On Fri. there would be building tours from 4-5 pm-with a formal ceremony at 7 pm. On Sat. there would be an early morning walk around Lake Bde Maka Ska, and a gathering in the back yard from 1 pm-5 pm (with an alternate plan for inclement weather). On Sun. there would be meditation as usual but after that at 10 am instead of the usual dharma talk there would be a reflection. The tea will be more robust than usual. There will also be a land acknowledgement.

All Katagiri's dharma heirs will be invited with a "save the date" card. All MZMC members will also receive a "nice" invite and program. We will distribute a booklet Admin and Karen Davis are

working on. There will also be a slide show for certain events, and perhaps an exhibit in the zendo library.

Mark said in addition to the retrospective we should maybe also talk about our vision for where our sangha and zendo will be 50 years on. Tanja asked how MZMC members will be able to participate. Randy asked if there will be a web component.

Admin and Ted will continue to work on the program and list of volunteer needs. We will take the largest volunteer positions and turn that into a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

9. Administrative Report and Financials (Admin ): Admin went over the MZMC balance sheets as of Dec. 31, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2021. On Dec. 31, 2020 our assets were \$621,773 and our liabilities were \$0. On Dec. 31, 2021 our assets were \$350,642 and our liabilities were \$531,311—those liabilities include the long-term capital campaign construction loan of \$272,811, the short-term capital campaign construction loan of \$200,000, and the \$58,500 we owe the estate related to the house sale.

The take-away from these Dec., 31, 2021 numbers is that if we leave in place our \$50,000 contingency fund in savings, and pay what we owe the estate related to the house sale, and pay the \$200,000 short-term capital campaign construction loan we will still have an additional \$42,142 remaining in savings to pay down the long-term loan or use in other ways.

Tanja asked what are our non-liquid assets. Admin said by far our biggest non-liquid asset is the zendo and grounds that were appraised before the capital campaign at \$1.8 million, if it was sold to a commercial real estate developer.

Randy said we need to put together a simple way to present this info at the annual meeting.

Admin walked through the year-end fiscal financial report covering Jan. 1, 2021 to Dec. 31, 2021. Projected revenue for that year was \$224,544—we ended up achieving 86.94% of that which was \$195,209. Projected expenses were \$223,299 and we only spent 80.9% of that which was \$180,659. Hence we ended the year \$14,550 in the black.

10. New Business: None.

11. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn Jim N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul G. Motion carried unanimously at 1:18 pm

Next meeting Sun., Feb. 20 11:30 am-1:30 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jim Niland