

Board Meeting Minutes – Summary

June 18, 2015 – 7-9pm

Present: Kevin Ansui Geoffroy Board Chair; Michael Dochin Rowell, Vice Chair; Jeff Stookey, Board Secretary; Gyokuko Carlson, Abbot, Corporate President and Kanin; Kelly McCombs, Corporate Treasurer; Julie Burtis; Jyoshin Clay; Joe Shisei Niski, Trustee.

Guest(s): Kakumyo Lowe-Charde; Nicole Ko'in Newsom, Anthony Fujaku Stevens, Carla Danley, J Christian.

Not present: Linda Hoka Bebernes; Valerie Kaishin Kelly.

Required Quorum: Eight (8) out of ten (10) voting members were present. Quorum was met.

The meeting began at 7:00 PM, at 3155 NE 85th Avenue, Portland, OR 97220.

Silence. Member concerns: None. Check in.

Minutes: The Board minutes for 21 May 2015 were previously approved by email.

Next meeting dates: July 9th, August 13th, August 27th. The annual DRZC Board retreat will be on Sunday, July 26th at Shisei's place.

Committee Reports

Young Adult Programs (YAP)

The DRZC Strategic Plan 2011 specifically mandates programs for 19-29 year olds, including Dharma School graduates. YAP proposes a Zen Adventure Club which plans to organize fun events that will include some sitting practice before and/or after activities. YAP is reaching out to Zen Center of Portland and Shambala to invite broader participation from the Portland Buddhist community. A bicycling event is planned for July 26th and a kayaking trip organized with Tualatin Riverkeepers is planned for later in the summer. Discussion touched on liability and payment issues. The Board approved YAP's plans, including creation of an Instagram account to publicize YAP and its activities.

On a related topic, it was proposed and the Board approved that DRZC set up a Twitter account to augment our website, blog, and Facebook page, as a means to reach out to a broader and younger audience. The Dharma Council is developing social media guidelines which will be shared with the Board for approval. It was suggested that the social media guidelines not be so restrictive as to preclude use of humor and colloquial language which might appeal to a younger audience.

Frogsong Preschool

They now have eight students enrolled, not all full time, and need 2-1/2 more full time students to break even. Detailed financials were submitted. The preschool still has \$13K in restricted funds left in their accounts. They are on budget.

The new Montessori teacher will be participating in Dharma Camp this summer to become more familiar with Dharma Rain's culture.

The portable building will be equipped with a composting toilet and a hand washing station in the classroom which will serve as a learning process for the children. Discussion included concerns about the lack of warm running water. There is a possibility we may have electricity and water to the portable by September.

Property Updates

Early stage work on Siskiyou Street improvements has begun—cutting down trees along the fence. The city is putting together a traffic control plan, which is currently holding up progress. The traffic movement in the neighborhood will be disrupted for about three months during the road work.

There was an electrical inspection today, and a few hurdles remain, but this process is now moving forward and looks promising.

Financial Report

Our recent EPA grant requires that we spell out our financial procedures, and an "Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual" document has been created based on Federal guidelines. The Board approved the document.

Transition from Key Bank

We have closed our checking and savings accounts with Key Bank and we must now close our safe deposit box. A proposal was approved to rent a new safe deposit box at Albina Community Bank, where we have established new bank accounts.

Specific language was proposed and approved for the minutes to facilitate closing of our credit card accounts with Key Bank.

Annual Fundraiser

It was reported that about six people have purchased tickets and about \$1600 has been donated. Someone from the Board should announce this event every Sunday to encourage broad participation by the Sangha.

Update from InterCouncil Mandala Review Meeting

Topics discussed included review of program fees, Young Adult Programs, fundraiser attendance, intensifying the Lotus Blooming capital campaign, and review of the Mandala model.

Lotus Blooming Committee

There was a long discussion on how the Board can become more involved in Lotus Blooming fundraising campaign outreach. We need to talk to Sangha members and ask if they have contributed to the Lotus Blooming fund, and ask people at services if they have become members of Dharma Rain.

We are at a critical juncture in developing our new campus and funds are necessary to complete work this summer so that the Sodo and the portable building will be usable once the weather turns cold. We need at least \$130 K in the next few months. Board volunteers were solicited and a few stepped forward to assist the staff with these efforts. Packets of fundraising materials were distributed for the Board to study and come up with ideas to move the campaign forward.

The meeting was adjourned informally around 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Stookey
DRZC Board Secretary