

# **DRZC Board Meeting Minutes – Summary**

July 9, 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; Joe Shisei Niski, Trustee; Linda Hoka Bebernes; Valerie Kaishin Kelly.

*Guest(s):* Kakumyo Lowe-Charde; Shin'yu Vitells; Nicole Ko'in Newsom.

*Not present:* Jyoshin Clay.

*Required Quorum:* Nine (9) out of ten (10) voting members were present. Quorum was met: a majority of the Directors in office constitutes a quorum.

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:** The annual DRZC Board retreat will be on Sunday, July 26th at Shisei's place. August 13th, August 27th, Sept. 17th.

## ***Committee Reports***

### **Lotus Blooming Campaign**

Around \$160 K has been pledged recently. We need a total of \$450 K to complete the Sodo. Plans are for a big fundraising push in August through September. Help is needed from Board and the Sangha. A series of tours are planned for August for friends and family of the Sangha.

### **New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Update**

There was one allocation of funds a month ago to another project, but we are still in the running for the short term. We have one firm commitment to using Dharma Rain as a Community Development Entity (CDE) for one application and we are in conversation with two other applicants. If we do not win funding from NMTC this year, DRZC will be near the top of the list for the 2016 cycle.

### **Siskiyou Cohousing LLC Land Lease**

The updated lease agreement between DRZC and Siskiyou Cohousing LLC has been approved.

The Cohousing LLC is still looking for a construction loan. They are in conversation with three banks. The preferred lender wants to see DRZC in a more stable financial situation with the Sodo completed or with money in hand to finish the building, before proceeding with a loan for the cohousing apartments.

### **Siskiyou Street improvements & electrical**

Street work has been close to moving forward for two months, but a start date is still uncertain. An electrical power pole will go in next week, and we should definitely have electricity hooked up on the property before the street improvements, and hopefully before the fundraiser in August. As soon as we have electricity and internet connections, the office will move from the Mekong Bistro building to the Uji.

### **Frogsong Preschool**

There are now eight students enrolled, although not all are full time. Just under \$13K in restricted funds remains in their account.

The new Montessori teacher, is now in Maryland finishing up her training and will be returning to participate in Dharma Camp to become more familiar with Dharma Rain's culture. She starts work the Tuesday after Labor Day, Sept. 8th. There are plans for continued Frog Song School tours which could be coordinated with DRZC property tours.

### **Financial Report**

Our Treasurer volunteered to knock on doors in the neighborhood to hand out leaflets about the impending Siskiyou Street improvements and traffic disruptions, and to invite neighbors to tour the property. In August evening tours, around 7:30 PM, are planned for neighbors.

Financial statements were handed out. We are moving from a modified cash accounting method to an accrual basis. This has been a big effort and we still need additional data entry. Dharma Camp money is coming in now. Our operations funds and building funds are completely separate and we need to be mindful of both needs. Treasurer will be tracking in-kind donations and volunteer hours which are valued at \$22.55/hr. All Sangha members are encouraged to enter their volunteer hours in Volgistics or else send a note to the office so the hours can be entered for you. Much of this recordkeeping is driven by grant funding requirements.

### **Annual Fundraiser**

The Board was encouraged to buy tickets and to spread the word for this August 8th event. There will be fun and games, wine, music, and children's activities. August 1st is the deadline for purchasing tickets, so that the caterer, Nicholas Restaurant, will know how many to plan for. Volunteers are needed to facilitate most aspects of this event.

### **Board Retreat**

Sunday, July 26th. Agenda items: Lotus Blooming, Council reports, membership report, review next year's budget & approve, strategic plan review. The retreat is a time for us to look at the big picture, to assess where we are and where we are headed.

### **Update from Intercouncil Mandala Review Meeting**

Council mandates are being articulated and reviewed. They will be presented to the Board for approval as to consistency, coherence, and accuracy.

The Mandala model diagram has been reworked to show the proper placement of the Dharma Garden and the Prison Program.

The fee structure for DRZC activities is being reviewed and guidelines are being formulated by the Dharma Council. Their recommendations will be reviewed and approved by

the Board at the retreat. We have an informal policy for allowing reduced fees based on individual circumstances.

Dharma Council is considering changes to the liturgical calendar and creating social media guidelines.

**Zen in North America Documentary**

Sweeping Zen is making a multi-part documentary series exploring the history and practices of Zen Buddhism in North America, currently in production until 2016. The filmmaker will be coming to Portland to include DRZC in the filming. DRZC will arrange to appear on their website as a sponsor. This project will be good publicity for us. The Board approved support for the film with \$108. We will also support the filmmaker by hosting him while he is in Portland.

The meeting was adjourned informally just before 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Stookey  
DRZC Board Secretary