

# DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING

January 11, 2024

*The Dharma Council provides oversight and stewardship of Dharma presentation and practice at DRZC to support its core mission and values.*

In Attendance: Jiko, Daikō, Christina, Jyōshin, Sanin, Thomas, Gabe, Myo'i

Facilitator: Daiko

Location: Zoom

Recorder: Gabe

## Agenda

### WELCOME MYO'I

1. Tiny Meditation
2. 60-Second Check-in
3. Approved Minutes from prior meeting
4. Next Meeting Date: February 8, 2024
5. Updates on action Items from previous meeting(s)
6. Questions/Topics for Today's Meeting:
  - a. Dharma Council positions/roles: What positions will each council member fill in 2024? Do the existing positions need to be changed/redefined?
    - i. *Background:* See Dharma Council Working Roles document for current positions/roles.
    - ii. *Summary of main discussion points:*
      1. Thomas has been asked to join the Dharma Garden Council, and will transition off of the Dharma Council in upcoming months. A current need in Thomas' domain (Position 7-Workshops and Study groups) is to train more folks to lead the Managing Stress and Cultivating Compassion Workshops;
      2. Myo i is interested in taking on Position 7, and is also open to helping with planning sangha activities like the annual picnic.
      3. Daiko would like to pass on Position 4 (Affiliated Groups) duties to someone else if possible. Christina will explore with Daiko what duties are involved with Position 4 and consider taking on that role.
    - iii. *Decided:* Myo i will transition into Position 7 (Workshops and Study Groups) as Thomas transitions off of the DC.
    - iv. **Action Item(s): Myo'i will follow up with Shin'yu, Sangha Council lead, on the topic of training more folks for the Managing Stress and**

**Cultivating Compassion Workshops. Christina will explore with Daiko what duties are involved with Position 4 and consider taking on that role.**

- b. Potential changes to Weds Student Discussions
  - i. *Background (From Sept 2023 meeting minutes): “There was a lot of variability in the student discussions, and some of them did not foster broad participation. Ideas:*
    1. *We could shift away from doing student-led discussions*
    2. *DRZC teachers could invite individual students to lead discussions, and have involvement in vetting topics and format*
    3. *One DRZC teacher could take on working with a cohort of folks who would lead the discussions*
    4. *We could develop more defined structure and guidelines for the discussion leaders (Kakumyo is willing to work on this). “*
  - ii. **Action Item(s): Jiko will check in with Kakumyo about developing supportive structure/guidelines for Wednesday evening discussions.**
  
- c. DRZC joining UniteOregon and becoming a Community Resiliency Hub
  - i. *Background:* Kakumyo is requesting approval from the Dharma Council. In an email dated 01/02/24, per Kakumyo: *It is a strategic decision. It fits well with our values and vision. If we become a “Community Resilience Hub” it is likely we will receive some funding for that, and it will strengthen our application for the Portland Clean Energy Fund that we will be submitting. The funding is part of House Bill 2990 sponsored by Pam Marsh and Khanh Pham (our state representative). It fits well with how we have developed our site and our established relationship with Portland’s Bureau of Emergency Services. Here is the link to more info :<https://www.orhubs.org/about>*
  - ii. *Decided:* The DC is in support of going forward with applying to become a Community Resiliency Hub.
  - iii. **Action Item(s): Daiko will communicate DC support for applying to become a Community Resiliency Hub to Kakumyo.**
  
- d. Tsuho’s proposal regarding Practice Advisors.
  - i. *Summary of main discussion points:* Tsuho has raised the question of whether DRZC actually needs a practice advisor program, and is proposing an alternative way of triaging and providing support to newer members by connecting them with the leaders of existing programs

serving new members (e.g. Taking Your Seat). Question: Should DRZC establish a "new member advisor" role that could coordinate with the guest master program, welcome new folks, and direct them to particular programs and/or individual advisors/mentors? Would this overlap with the existing membership coordinator role?

- ii. **Action Item(s): Jiko will check with the current membership coordinator to explore the "new member advisor" idea and will f/u at February DC meeting.**

- e. Zonnyo and Sa'nin's proposal for a workshop about The Role of Artistic Expression in Dharmic Practice to be co-led by Jane Aukshunas and either a teacher or a senior student - Sanin

- i. *Decided:* The DC is generally in support of this workshop idea.
- ii. **Action Item(s): Myo'i will review the "Proposed New Programming - Questions to Consider" document with regard to the Artistic Expression in Dharmic Practice Workshop proposal and report back to the Dharma Council.**

- f. Health of the Sangha (standing agenda item) - any observations on trends or other items of note?

- i. *Summary of main discussion points:* A new visitor to DRZC offered some feedback related to DEI, noting that the quietness and formality of the DRZC setting and its core events may not be welcoming/accommodating for folks with divergent/non-conforming physical and mental presentations. Appreciation expressed for Sunday lunches which potentially offer a more open environment with room for varied presentations, varied expression etc... This is a valuable DEI consideration.

## 7. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements

- a. Temple Officers:
- b. Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers: Kengan will be formally stepping down as a DRZC teacher. We have a new Shuso!
- c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: continuing to prioritize potential activities. Genko has joined as a teacher representative. Committee is considering a different name....tbd. Discussion of material to put up in the bulletin board area of the dining room - has been Spanish language, does this make sense? Is there interest/energy to ever have programming in Spanish again?
- d. Affiliated Groups:
- e. DRZC 50th Anniversary Planning Committee Report

- f. Strategic Plan - Update We essentially met the goals articulated in the strategic plan, so it was agreed that a strategic plan monitoring committee is no longer needed. Instead, starting to orient towards development of a new strategic plan. Question: Do we need to identify/recruit a new coordinator(s) for the strategic plan process? **Action Item: Jyoshin will check in with Kakumyo regarding next steps in the New Strategic Plan process.**

## 8. Action Item Assignments