

DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING

May 9, 2024

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

In Attendance: Myo'i, Jiko, Christina, Jyōshin, Sanin, Ko'in, Gabe

Absent: Daiko

Facilitator: Myo'i

Location: Uji

Recorder: Gabe

Agenda. WELCOME KO'IN!

1. Tiny Meditation
2. 60-Second Check-in
3. Approved Minutes from prior meeting
4. Next Meeting Date: June 13, 2024 - Jyoshin will facilitate if available.
5. Member Concerns, if any: (Ko'in) Not enough headsets in the Sodo! **Temple Officers are in the process of addressing this. More cushions and chairs are also on the way.**
6. Updates on action Items from previous meeting(s):
7. Questions/Topics for Today's Meeting:
 - a. Sangha Support Network expansion - **discuss the DC's next steps in considering the expansion of the SSN and/or Hand in Hand**
 - i. *Background:* At the spring sangha forum, a member suggested that the Sangha Support Network could be expanded to include home visits.
 1. See [4/18 Dharma Council Meeting notes](#) for details.
 2. *Per Jiko via email 4/19:* Important to know the reason and the timeline for visits. Short-term, like after surgery, can be reasonable. If it's an open-ended request, we need to consider stewardship of our resources. If it is for chronic illness or disability, it could be brought to Hand in Hand to see if a member wants to take it on.
 - ii. *Summary of main discussion points:* SSN is for more time-limited requests. Hand-in-Hand offers longer term spiritual companionship. In general, requests for support can be considered on a case-by-case basis and triaged to the appropriate resource. The Sangha Council will be in charge of finding a new coordinator for the Sangha Support Network.
 - iii. *Decided:* No additional action needed.

- b. Little Library Proposal (continued from previous meeting)
 - i. *Background:* See 4/18 email from Daiko for full proposal. The Little Library would be a free standing box of dharma related books available for anyone to take from, or donate to. Daoren would be primarily responsible for overseeing the installation and maintenance of the Little Library. Daoren is requesting the Dharma Council approval of the project as a starting point. *From last DC meeting:* Most libraries of this kind accept all kinds of book donations, and we wouldn't want to encourage donations which would then be removed by Daoren. Question: Who else needs to approve this?
 - ii. *Summary of main discussion points:* It will be important to regularly attend to the contents of the library so that unwanted items don't accrue. Since these neighborhood free libraries are typically for an open exchange of all kinds of books, it makes sense to give it a different name that designates it as a resource specifically for exchanging dharma books.
 - iii. *Decided:* The DC is in favor of a Little Library trial.
 - iv. **Action Item(s): Jiko will notify the Kanin of DC approval of a little library trial. The DC will plan to review how it's going with the Little Library 90 days after it is built.**

- c. Wesak schedule change
 - i. *Background:* The Dharma Garden Council would like to go back to having the Wesak celebration happen at 10:30 (in the place of the dharma talk) instead of 9:40 (in the place of service) to allow for more Dharma School participation, and a more "processional" feel. If approved, this change would happen in 2025. Consider inviting Shin'yu to a Dharma Council meeting to discuss this.
 - ii. *Summary of main discussion points:* There are other stakeholders who need to be consulted. There is also discussion happening about how to shorten the procession/ceremony. Perhaps having just the children process?
 - iii. **Action Item(s): Christina will talk with other stakeholders (Dharmagarden Council, the Tanto, the Abbot, Head of Sacristy) to develop a plan for next Wesak by the fall.**

- d. Discussion of Assignment of the Working Roles of Council Members.
 - i. *Background:* Daiko would like to transition the role of Affiliated Group Liaison as soon as possible. Planning for Dharma Cloud Day 2025 should be underway soon. It would be good for the new person to spearhead that.

- ii. **Action Item(s): Ko'in will talk with Daiko about taking on the role of Affiliated Group Liaison.**

- e. Discuss if we need to issue a statement disavowing a former member's comments about his practice at DRZC - Jiko. **(Deferred to next meeting)**
 - i. *Background:* A person who was a member of DRZC a long time ago, who is claiming to have been ordained, and is making statements about DRZC as as a "renegade" temple. He is now doing videos for YouTube. Kakumyo would like the Dharma Council to consider a response as part of our role in caring for the temple's reputation.
 - ii. *Summary of main discussion points:* The former member apparently suggests that he was ordained as a monk by Kyogen, and was denied ordination elsewhere due to being affiliated with DRZC - a "Renegade Temple"
 - iii. **Action Item(s): All council members will look at this material and decide if it merits a response of some kind.**

- f. Update on the New Member Coordinator position
 - i. *Summary of main discussion points:* It seems like an appropriate position for one of the Shokis. .
 - ii. **Action Item(s): Jiko will look into whether Tshuo might take the lead on finding a candidate for this new position.**

- 8. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements
 - a. Temple Officers: Genko is starting to make additional zabutons. Discussion of ways to help new people navigate morning service. Open Gate DEI is encouraging us to start using the DEI equity lens. They are considering reducing the number of questions, and when those have been established they could be added to our standard agenda template and/or applied to significant decisions. 50th Anniversary Update. Helping new folks with morning service. Ironing out problems with emails to staff.
 - b. Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers: Talked about when to have next Lay Disciple Ordination. No dates are set yet.
 - c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Working on streamlining the DEI equity lens tool.
 - d. Other Reports/Announcements/Items: Genko added dates to the lineage class series (see Genko's 4/26 email). The Master Record needs updating. Perhaps Seminary could be flexibly offered on different days of the week.

- 9. Action Item Assignments