

DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING

January 9, 2025

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, Jyōshin, Brian, Reiju

Absent: My'oi, Ko'in, Sarah

Facilitator: Daiko

Location: Uji

Recorder: Sarah

Agenda

Happy New Year and welcome Brian and Sarah!

Tiny Meditation

60-Second Check-in

Next Meeting Date: February 13, 2025

Member Concerns, if any:

I. Updates on action Items from previous meeting(s):

- a. Daiko will invite the third member interested in joining the DC to join when they are available in Spring 2025 - DONE
- b. Daiko will invite one of the incoming DC members to fill the secretary role so they can be oriented to the role by Gabe prior to the January meeting - DONE - Sarah is our new secretary
- c. Ko'in will work on updating the *Steps to Conduct Class Evaluations* process document. NOT COMPLETED YET. KO'IN & SAN'IN HAVE NOT MET YET.
- d. Daiko will add review of DC meeting day/time to the agenda for January. DONE
- e. Daiko will add the topic of integrating children and families with the larger sangha to a future DC meeting agenda-DONE

II. Questions/Topics for Today's Meeting

- a. Meeting time and attendance. Should we change our meeting time?
Background: We have been meeting on the second Thursday of the month from 7:00-8:45. It does not look like the 2nd Thursday conflicts with any retreats this year. Do we want to change when we meet, and if

so when would that be? **Reminder that we meet 10 times per year, and expect 80% attendance?**

III. Proposed Dharma Garden *Yoga Playgrounds* Teacher Training:

- a. *Background:* Proposal [description](#) (per 11/21/2024 email from Jen Bass)-
 - i. *Summary of main discussion points:*
 - ii. *Decided: **Approved via email*** (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)

Action Item(s):

IV. Question/Topic: Potential new Dharma Council member will be present at this meeting to discuss her availability to attend DC meetings in 2025.

- a. *Background: Summary of main discussion points:* Reiju attended the meeting. She informed the group that, as a new postulant, she is going to train at two different temples and will be gone from February 26 to May 26. There was a discussion of the ramifications of being on the Dharma Council and missing the March, April, and May meetings.
 - i. *Decided:* It was decided that her absence will be considered an “Approved Leave of Absence, and that she would take in the role of planning the Summer Party.

(review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)

Action Item(s): I

V. Question/Topic: Distribution of Work Roles

- a. *Background:* Please review Dharma Council Composition and Work Roles. The link is listed below
- b. *Summary of main discussion points:*
 - i. *Decided:* Here are the work role assignments:
 - Position 1: Godo-Jiko
 - Position 2: Assistant Godo -Daikō
 - Position 3: Secretary-Sarah
 - Position 4: Strategic Planning - Jiko (Jyoshin may be involved as available)
 - Position 5: Affiliated Groups Liaison - Brian
 - Position 6: Seminary - Ko'in
 - Position 7: DEI Liaison
 - Position 8: Workshops and Study Groups -Myo'i
 - Summer Party Planning - Reiju (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)

Action Item(s): Daikō to orient Brian to the Affiliated Groups Liaison position. Daikō to check with sarah to see if she is still on the DEI committee

VI. Health of the Sangha - any observations? (standing agenda item)

- a. Attendance is robust. The parking lot has been consistently full on Sunday mornings. There were 60 people at the last Wednesday night precepts class. People often arrive late and enter the zendo during ceremonial stuff. Residency is full again with the arrival of 2 new residents; Brenda and Thomas.
 - i. *Decided:* (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)

Action Item(s): Temple officers to discuss late arrivals and coordinate with the Guest Master team about asking late arrivals to wait to enter the zendo.

VII. Question/Topic - Planning for Dharma Cloud Day

- a. *Background:* The Affiliated Groups meet every other year to foster connection and share resources. The next Dharma Cloud Day has been scheduled for Saturday April 26 at Dharma Rain. We need a point person to recruit a couple of people from the affiliated groups to plan the event
- b. *Summary of main discussion point:* There has not been much enthusiasm for Dharma Cloud Day planning this year.
 - i. *Decided:* Brian in his new role will reach out to the Affiliated Groups to gauge their interest in having a Dharma Cloud Day this year.

Action Items: Daikō and Brian will coordinate on communication to the Affiliated Groups about Dharma Cloud Day. Jiko will see if there is a Dharma Rain teacher who would be involved in the planning.

VIII. Question/Topic - Brainstorming about ways to integrate children and families with the larger sangha.

- a. *Background:* We have identified this as an area of focus for the Dharma Council this year. Daikō met with Shin'yu and Jen Bass about coordinating and seeking approval from the Dharma Council regarding events that the Dharma Garden Council would like to open to the whole sangha.
- b. *Discussion:* we miss having the kids come in after the Dharma talk to participate in the , but the timing issues make it very difficult. Starting up community lunches again is a good point of

integration. The Dharma Council approved a request from the Dharma Garden Council to open up an event to the sangha as a whole. The Dharma Garden Council has their own newsletter. We don't really have a clear idea of what they do.

Action Item: Daikō to invite members of the Dharma Garden Council to our next meeting.

IX. Sangha Forum - The Dharma Council is facilitating the next Sangha Forum scheduled for Sunday April 13th. Please be thinking of presentation ideas to be discussed at our February meeting. Daiko will be out of town for the March meeting and would like to have a plan for the Sangha forum by the end of the February meeting.

- a. Discussion: It would be nice to do something fun, like a little quiz. We would like the Sangha Council to do a presentation. The Board will have some time to do a presentation. We can review what the Dharma Council has done, is currently working on, and what's coming up.

Action Items: Jiko to work on a quiz. Daikō to talk to Daigai about the Sangha Forum presentation. Daikō to coordinate with the Board about their presentation.

X. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements

- a. Temple Officers: Last meeting was 11/26/24:
 - i. We reviewed grants that we are applying for;
 - ii. Zonnyo is going to add a land acknowledgement statement to our website;
 - iii. Zonnyo will touch base with zoom jisha, and residents about setting up for ceremonies so that the zoom sound works
 - iv. The printing of the larger print sutra books is in progress.

XI. Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers:

- a. All classes have teachers assigned.
- b. All beginners' retreats are covered.
- c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: No report
- d. Affiliated Groups: No report.
- e. Other Reports/Announcements

XII. Action Item Assignments

- a. *Daikō to orient Brian to the Affiliated Groups Liaison position. Daikō to check with sarah to see if she is still on the DEI committee*
- b. *Temple officers to discuss late arrivals and coordinate with the Guest Master team about asking late arrivals to wait to enter the zendo.*
- c. *Daikō and Brian will coordinate on communication to the Affiliated Groups about Dharma Cloud Day. Jiko will see if there is a Dharma Rain teacher who would be involved in the planning.*
- d. *Daikō to invite members of the Dharma Garden Council to our next meeting.*
- e. *Jiko to work on a quiz. Daikō to talk to Daigai about the Sangha Forum presentation. Daikō to coordinate with the Board about their presentation.*