

# DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

6/12/25 7-8:45 PM

*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, Ko'in, Brian, Konen, Reiju

Absent: Myo'i

Facilitator: Daiko

Location: Uji

Recorder: Konen

## Agenda

Tiny Meditation

60-Second Check-in

Next Meeting Date: 7/10/2025

Member Concerns, if any:

Updates on action Items from previous meeting(s):

- **Per Dharma Cloud Day: Sat. 2/21 hosted at DRZC; Brian went to Bright Way Sunday. Will write something up on that for the newsletter.**

## Action Items:

- **Konen to call another Dharma/Garden Council subcommittee. Write up a proposal for how we'd like to more fully integrate children and families on Sunday mornings to present to Kakumyo. Ko'in can take it to him. All sangha service project on the property could be a good way to incorporate families, pull students into being stewards of the property. Plan another meeting to confer about this.**
- **Reiju: ask Zonnyo about fliers for sangha party, talk to Sokuchu about newsletter, Talk with Jen about water games; make an announcement this Sunday.**
- **Daiko communicate with Myo'i about reviewing the process of approving cohort groups.**
- **Jiko check with Kakumyo regarding how to work with requests to the sangha for political actions.**
- **Jiko will talk with Kakumyo about errors in the new chant books.**
- **Reiju check in and see if there's interest/willingness from Green Gulch.**
- **Write up a proposal for a young adult retreat.**

1. Increased integration of Children and Families into the larger sangha.
  - a. Background: We met with members of the Dharma Garden Council last month.

b. Summary of main discussion points. Lots of ideas were generated, but no decisions made. Subcommittee to be established to discuss further.

**Konen and Ko'in to start a subcommittee with Dharma Garden. Konen to initiate finding a date to meet. (June 1st after Dharma Talk).** Feedback from Kakumyo: cannot be whole Sunday morning. Family and children will only occupy the space of the short morning service. Other thoughts about where we go from here.

c. *Decided:*

2. Sangha Party

- a. *Background:* Scheduled for August 2. Reiju is our point person. Dharma Garden has asked to help with the planning, and Daiko said yes to that.
- b. *Summary of main discussion points:* Party planning, and how best to coordinate with Jen/DharmaGarden Council.
- c. Reiju talked with Jen:
  - i. Add a water game for the kiddos even just putting out sprinklers or supersoakers. Pavilion has misters; game of tag.
  - ii. Creating a mandala as a community. Paper wedges. Creating a painted rock mandala. Paint rock then place it in the sangha madala.
  - iii. Yard games. Croquet, Bocci, Badminton, Corn Hole, Golf balls and frame
  - iv. City of Portland has giant checkers/boardgames that people can play.
- d. This is members plus families; everyone can bring family.
- e. Reiju: make it more potluck for less clean-up, less prep, paper plates
- f. Temple provides drinks
- g. Publicity: it should go in the bulletin now; save the date.
- h. *Decided:* (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)

3. Day of Mindfulness: Flying Fish

- a. *Background:* Proposal
- b. *Summary of main discussion points:* Proposal approved via email vote
- c. *Decided:* (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)
- d. **Action Item(s):**

4. Podcast Proposal from Dharma Garden Council

- a. *Background:* Proposal
- b. *Summary of main discussion points:* Proposal approved via email
- c. *Decided:* (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)
- d. **Action Items**

5. Conference Proposal from Garden Dharma Council

- a. *Background:* Proposal
- b. *Summary:* Proposal approved via email
- c. *Decisions:*(review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)
- d. **Action items**

## 6. Limits and Prioritization of Cohort Groups - Jiko

### a. *Background:*

### b. *Summary of Main Discussion Points:*

- i. They've been multiplying.
  1. Easy for the groups to start diverting from what we're here for.
  2. Possible conflict: time is that a cohort that's not strictly dharma related can be scheduled at the same time as a dharma specific event. Cohorts should not be in conflict with dharma practice events.
  3. Cohort groups should be internal sangha peer-led groups. Internal alliances for horizontal relationships within the sangha. They're using sangha resources.
  4. Would like to see the cohort groups come off the public calendar and not be advertised to the general public. But part of having them on the public calendar is so that members know when they're happening. What about private lists for cohort groups?
  5. It might be that cohort groups function as a way in if they're allowing non members as well. They can be a useful doorway.
  6. If non members are allowed to be in cohort groups, what limits do we put on them?
    - a. Should be reviewed on a regular basis.
  7. Problem with wayfinding: where the cohorts are being held, directing people, being clearer about location.
  8. Cohorts shouldn't happen at the same time as the dharma workshops.
  9. Do we need to evaluate each cohort group?
    - a. Have some feedback, boundaries for specific groups when we approve the groups. We have frameworks for specific groups.
      - i. Friday and Saturday nights could be good options some weeks for certain cohorts to meet.
  10. Hash out an agreement about how to evaluate cohort groups based on a clarified purpose.
  11. Perhaps visit the cohort groups, Jiko and Jyoshin, to see what's happening.
  12. Go back and review the proposals.
    - a. Look at proposals and then check in with the leaders: what's happening?
  13. Question about whether cohort groups should be on public calendar or admin calendar.
  14. We need to clarify the purpose of the cohort groups.

### c. *Decisions:* (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)

## 7. Proposal for Summer Diamond Sutra Study Group - Ko'in

- a. *Background:* Proposal
- b. *Summary:* Proposal approved via email
- c. *Decisions:* (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)
- d. **Action Items**

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

- a. *Background*
- b. *Summary of main discussion points*
- c. *Decided:* (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)
- d. **Action Item(s):**

#### 9. Political Protest and Dharma Rain

- a. Konen raised question about political events and Dharma Rain participation. Jiko explained that DRZC's policy is not to take political stands, don't make political announcements to the sangha. Individuals are free to do what works for them, and to invite others to events privately. OK to wear robes at political events. Given the current political climate we anticipate seeing requests like Konen's from time to time.
- b. How to work with requests:
  - i. Should we make an announcement? So people don't start making announcements and then feel shut down.

#### 10. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements

- a. Temple Officers: New bigger font Chant Books are now being used. Wesak ceremony - next year the procession will be a more prominent feature of the ceremony.
  - i. There are some errors.
- b. Integrating children and families- Suggested starting small, do it on a regular Dharma School Sunday, maybe do a short service, short (like 10 minutes) talk or something geared to kids, and then have them go back to Dharma School.
- c. Strategic Plan- Zonnyo and Thomas Bruner will facilitate the first forum about the strategic plan.
- d. Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers:
- e. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:
- f. Affiliated Groups:

11. Reiju: Got an email about a new book that the abbot at Green Gulch has edited, a series of talks by Shunryu Suzuki. Wonders if we might invite Jiryu to come visit to talk about the book. Could strengthen relationship with Green Gulch. Sojun Mel Weitsman also worked on this book. There are people here who have connection with Green Gulch and those teachers.

12. Reiju: hosting a young adult retreat. 18-25. At Upaya they have a young adult retreat. It's how a lot of people found their way in. Could help people who have finished dharma school have connection, continuous practice, integration.