

# DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING

Jun 9, 2022

*The purpose of the Dharma Council is to assist and advise the Abbot and Godo in determining matters of liturgy and teaching. The Dharma Council provides oversight and stewardship of Dharma presentation and practice at DRZC to support its core mission and values.*

In Attendance: Gabe, Enji, Sokuchū, Daikō, Jyōshin

Absent: Jiko, Christina, Kengan

Facilitator: Gabe

Location: Uji

Recorder: Enji

## Agenda

1. Tiny Meditation
2. 60-Second Check-in
3. Approved Minutes from prior meeting
4. Next Meeting Date: **July 17, Dharma Council Retreat 12-4:30pm**
5. Member Concerns: Request for regular announcements on Sunday about availability of Blue Book, Green Book, and Chant books. **Action:** Gabe will pass on the request to staff along with ideas for maximizing accessibility and facilitating donations (QL code? Greeter present to talk with new folks and prompt Shuso to announce?).
6. Updates on action items from previous meeting(s)
  - a. Gabe will connect with the Board and Temple Officers to continue and broaden the discussion of next steps in DEI work. **Update and discussion:** Gabe talked with the Board Chair and officers. Considering a Council Process with the same group that was invited to DEI training to do some open exploration and move toward clarity about next steps. After the reflection, may be useful to come up with a theory of change to guide future actions.
7. Topics/Questions for Today's Meeting:
  - a. Is the DC in support of DRZC hosting a talk and possible workshop by Robert Rosenbaum, Sunday Nov. 20 (assuming fit with DRZC calendar/staffing capacity)? **Approved**
  - b. Is the DC in support of Flying Fish offering a daytime class/study group?
    - i. Current proposal is for fall and winter/spring during the angu period to take advantage of the noontime sitting; Studying either Thich Nhat Hanh

Understanding the Mind or Christina Feldman's Boundless Heart - an in depth exploration into the Divine Abodes. **Approved.**

- c. Summer Social Event July 2. Any planning or logistical needs?
    - i. Summary of main discussion points: *Tenzo is comfortable about the food. Volunteers will be recruited to bring desserts. Enji can bring badminton. Cornhole, Bocce Ball, Croquet are already planned.*
    - ii. **Action Item:** *Daiko will make announcements and recruit additional volunteers .*
  
  - d. Is the DC in support of shifting to use of the Han instead of the Densho to announce zazen.
    - i. This a request from the Abbot, to start implementing the more traditional form of using the han for this purpose. **Approved**
  
  - e. Dharma Council Retreat: Ideas for agenda topics?
    - i. Gabe and Jiko will take primary responsibility for creating an agenda, but welcome ideas. A central theme will likely be in-depth exploration of what meaningful function(s) and specific form the Dharma Council might have going forward, as well as what will support a vital and valuable experience for individual councilmembers.
    - ii. Summary of main discussion points: *We have begun discussion already about what our function and form may be going forward. It could be great to get closer to a decision. One of the purposes of the Dharma Council is always to ask, "What are we here for? What is needed? What is happening at DRZC in terms of tone and practice, and how do we meet this?" The inquiry can be creative. We are also the receptacle for the questions and ideas from others about what is needed. Our purpose is to keep that question alive. We may have different focuses every few years.*
    - iii. Decided: *Gabe and Jiko will finalize the agenda.*
  
  - f. Check-in on keeping the Master Record of Classes etc... up to date. Is a good process in place?
    - i. Sokuchu checks with DRATT quarterly. Working pretty well.
    - ii. *There was a recent exception to the usual well-ordered process due to unexpected travel by the coordinator along with the added glitch of DRATT not meeting that month.*
8. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements
- a. Temple Officers:

- Investigating how Dharma Rain might work toward relieving suffering of houseless folks
  - Next steps in DEI: council process (x2?) and discussions of next steps, starting with those invited to the most recent training that was offered (to be coordinated by board and dc leadership)
  - Question for DC: Can we use han instead of densho bell to signal start of meditation periods?
  - From May meeting: add announcements to Wed evening sit; annual request for people to claim and launder their robes that are kept in the dressing room will be forthcoming.
- b. Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers: No May meeting next meeting 6/30; currently working on filling teaching and other calendar roles.
  - c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: A2W very few people registered. We will hold it even if it's just one small group. Working on editing registration forms for inclusive language. Eager to hear how to support the Board's next steps in the DEI leadership following the training. Heading towards the "organizational reflection and listening" retreat/workshop for Board, Dharma Council and Dharma Garden Council.
  - d. Affiliated Groups: Dharma Cloud Day 2023 has been scheduled for Saturday, April 29th. Bright Way Zen will host the event. Time and agenda yet to be determined. Daiko reached out to Sosetsu regarding the formation of the Corbett Sitting Group via email.
  - e. Other Reports/Announcements: Jiko is hearing feedback from teachers requesting that Hossen not be scheduled on Father's day, Pride, or any other important family-oriented day. This was addressed at the Temple officers meeting.

#### 9. Action Item Assignments and Deadlines:

- a. Summer picnic party: Daiko will bring cornhole. Enji will bring badminton and check for rackets. Daiko will recruit desserts, will make announcement Sunday, other DC members can assist..
- b. Sokuchu will share Wed eval form with Genko for Dharma Rain files.
- c. Gabe will communicate with temple officers re member request on announcements re green/blue book, and our suggestions, and about collecting money.
- d. Gabe will finalize retreat agenda with Jiko.
- e. Daiko is querying affiliated groups about their DEI plans. She will share with them as a resource the link from our website with the DEI committee info and timeline

#### 10. Check Out