

DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING

February 9, 2023

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

In Attendance: Jiko, Gabe, Kengan, Christina, Jyōshin, Sanin, Thomas

Guest: Zonnyo

Absent: Daikō

Facilitator: Kengan

Location: Uji

Recorder: Gabe

Agenda

1. Tiny Meditation
2. 60-Second Check-in
3. Approved Minutes from prior meeting
4. Next Meeting Date: March 9, 2023
5. Updates on action Items from previous meeting(s)
6. Questions/Topics for Today's Meeting:
 - a. What is the new Shika role and how can we work together?
 - i. Zonnyo, our new Shika, joined the meeting for this topic.
 - ii. Summary of main discussion points:
 1. Shika is primarily in charge of temple communications and hospitality. Communications include helping facilitate Internal communications and managing outward facing communications (e-bulletins, website content, posts etc., bulletin boards). The Shika is a point person for public outreach and coordination of special initiatives and events - e.g. the housing project, spring fundraiser event etc... The Shika's hospitality duties include hosting visitors, retreatants, and other DRZC guests.
 2. The DC sometimes can use help with problem solving communication challenges, and this could be an area of collaboration with the Shika. Challenges range from tech issues (e.g. communications to staff@dharma-rain email being answered by multiple people), to broader questions about how to disseminate information. It might be useful to have more clarity and formalization of routes of communication within the organization.

- iii. Decided: The Shika will periodically email summaries to the DC about significant current projects (communications work, initiatives, events etc...).
 - b. New Roles: Questions? Concerns? How's it going?
 - i. Summary of main discussion points: The council reviewed the 7 current Dharma Council positions and explored specific duties as well as scope and process of oversight of different areas of the temple:
 - ii. Decided: Thomas agreed to take on Position 7 (Workshops, study groups, new programming).
 - iii. **Action Item(s):** Thomas will communicate DC approval and suggestions regarding the Dogen study group proposal to Tsuho; Christina will reach out to the DEI committee and begin attending their meetings; Sanin will update Master Record of Classes with recent additions and work with Sokuchu on transitioning maintenance of the Master Record document, coordination with DRATT etc....
 - c. New proposed Dogen study group. Does the Dharma Council approve?
 - i. Summary of main discussion points:
 - 1. Is it too big an ask to have 2 teachers participate? There is enthusiasm among the teachers group and having 2 present is not a requirement per se.0
 - 2. Is eight participants perhaps too small and potentially insular?
 - 3. The group seems like a good fit with our core mission and values and senior advanced study is part of our mission.
 - 4. Idea: It would be great to see student talks come out of this to facilitate sharing with the broader sangha.
 - ii. Decided: The DC supports going ahead with the test group and would like to hear back about how it went. We recommend considering starting with 10 participants due to attrition.
 - iii. **Action Item:** Thomas will communicate DC approval and suggestions regarding the Dogen study group proposal to Tsuho.
 - d. Media Policy Update
 - i. Summary of main discussion points:
 - 1. The media policy needs updating to address audio recordings
 - 2. It is important to consider how we will operationalize this policy effectively and disseminate this info to the sangha (website, bulletin board, announcements at events etc...)
 - ii. Decided: The DC will review and update the media policy document.

- iii. **Action Item(s):** All DC members will review the media policy with an eye to addressing audio recordings and operationalizing the policy (announcements, postings etc...).

7. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements:

- a. Temple Officers: Discussed past and upcoming events and how they are going; zendo form (shuso to remind people which is the front of cushion, announcement to “stand if you are able”; media policy needs updating; acoustical panels are being installed in the zendo.
- b. Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers: No update
- c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: No update
- d. Affiliated Groups: Daiko and Kengan met with Domyo at Bright Way Zen on January 31. The physical space will accommodate at least 37 people for Zazen, more if people are in chairs. It will be a hybrid event with people joining both in person and by Zoom. The tentative schedule/agenda is to start at 10:00 am, and end by 4:00 pm. Blurb to go out in our e-bulletin closer to the event.

8. Action Item Assignments and Deadlines

- a. Gabe will look into getting DC meetings back on the DRZC calendar
- b. Gabe will explore with Jyoshin how to centralize ownership of DC documents within the organization
- c. Sanin will update Master Record of Classes with recent additions and work with Sokuchu on transitioning maintenance of the Master Record document, coordination with DRATT etc....
- d. Thomas will communicate DC approval and suggestions regarding the Dogen study group proposal to Tsuho.
- e. Christina will reach out to the DEI committee and begin attending their meetings.
- f. Kengan will add the following to the next DC meeting agenda: Date for summer social; Possible group photo.
- g. Jiko is following up around making recordings of classes available in a timely manner.
- h. All DC members: Review the Media Policy with an eye to addressing audio recordings and operationalizing the policy (announcements, postings etc...).