

DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING

April 6, 2023

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

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

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: May 11, 2023
5. Member Concerns, if any:
 - a. Request for a meeting to gauge interest in forming an LGBTQ affinity group.
 - i. *Background:* From the Shika: "There have been some recent requests for a "queer tea" affinity group for LGBTQI sangha. I have some ideas about how to get it off the ground".
 - ii. *Summary of main discussion points:* The DEI committee is also working on this and is seeking DC approval to hold an exploratory meeting.
 - iii. *Decided:* The DC supports exploring and initiating this cohort group if there is interest. There should be an identified point person. The DC would like to be updated about how things develop.
 - iv. **Action item(s):** Christina will f/u with DEI and the Shika regarding the proposed LGBTQI cohort group and keep the DC updated.
6. Updates on action Items from previous meeting(s):
 - i. **Action Item(s):** Thomas will reach out to Terry and get trained in the Zoom-to-audio recording process.
7. Questions/Topics for Today's Meeting:
 - a. Review/Discuss Sangha Forum plan
 - i. Spring Sangha Forum is DCs to facilitate. What do we want to modify or change from the proposed plan?

Draft Agenda (not necessarily in this order):

- DC, Jiko: new DC mandate; what we do; how to engage with us; also media policy
- DC, Daiko: Dharma Cloud Day

- Jyoshin: evangelical convo; garden?
 - Board, Tsuho: June garden party, two peace in schools events, housing update. Also, practice advisor program
 - Sangha Council, Shin'yu: volunteering as practice; volunteering opportunities; how to volunteer
 - DEI
 - Prison Program, Genko
 - Dharma Garden: Shin'yu or Victoria
 - Q&A
- ii. *Summary of main discussion points:*
1. It would be great to incorporate some fun “quiz show” questions like we did last year.
 2. We will need someone to jot down notes during Q&A in case there is follow up.
 3. It may be useful to query the group initially to get a sense of who is present in terms of senior members, newcomers, etc...
 4. Rather than raising it as a question for the sangha, Jyoshin will consider doing a dharma talk on the theme of balancing accessibility and opportunities for rigorous/challenging practice.
- iii. **Action Item(s):** Jiko will work on some quiz questions. Gabe will take notes at the Sangha Forum Q&A.
- b. Question/Topic: Status of new roles
- i. *How is it going for each of us in transitioning into our new roles; any questions or concerns?*
 - ii. *Summary of main discussion points:*
 1. Question raised regarding potential transfer of the role of seminary registrar to DC member Sanin. Is this part of his DC role? Would it be a long term commitment?
 2. There is agreement that the seminary registrar role does not necessarily need to be filled by a DC member.
 - iii. **Action Item(s):** Sanin will find out more about the seminary registrar role and decide whether or not he will take it on.
- c. Summer Retreat
- i. The Dharma Council typically holds an informal retreat once per year to focus on bigger picture topics, or things we don't have enough time for in regular meetings. When and where? Topics?
 - ii. *Summary of main discussion points:* Seems like a working retreat is not needed this year. Perhaps just a fun relationship-building event - e.g. bowling, mini-golf etc... Could consider doing this for our first meeting in the Fall.
 - iii. *Decided:* We will do a fun-focused event of some kind in the Fall.

- d. Summer Party
 - i. The Board is planning the community partners-focused gathering on June 17 and wondering if the DC can give more details about our summer event so that the Board party complements rather than competes.
 - ii. *Summary of main discussion points:* Our event will be a light, fun gathering with food and games like croquet, cornhole, etc...
 - iii. *Decided:* Proposed Date: Saturday, August 19th, 1-4:30
 - iv. **Action Item(s):** Christina will f/u with Genko and Kakumyo regarding food for the summer party, and let Zonnyo/the Board know our plan.
 - e. Health of the Sangha (standing agenda item)
 - i. Any observations on trends or other items of note?
 - ii. *Summary of main discussion points:* Programming has been full, with a good level of new participants, interest and energy. The Weds evening class series on vow just finished and evals are forthcoming.
8. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements:
- a. Temple Officers: 1) Tisarana with Dharma School kids & Sunday lunches: restart both together 1x per month starting 5/28 (then break for the summer). The kids can come over and we all chant before eating. 2) Request for all 4 workshops (Intro to Meditation, Starting a Practice, Compassion, and Stress) to share processes, scheduling; training some seniors to participate. 3) 10-15 people are interested in summer pilgrimage.
 - b. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: DEI committee plans to give a short presentation at the sangha forum reviewing DEI successes of the past few years.
 - c. Other Reports/Announcements: Update from Shinyu regarding the question of to what extent should team leads function autonomously in recruiting: *“Per Kakumyo, it's good to have team leads take an active role in recruiting to streamline the process. Sometimes it's helpful to consult with Sangha council or ask for help in recruiting. So, not black and white.”*
9. Action Item Assignments and Deadlines
- a. Christina will f/u with DEI and the Shika regarding the proposed LGBTQI cohort group and keep the DC updated.
 - b. Christina will f/u with Genko and Kakumyo regarding food for the summer party, and let Zonnyo know the date and our rough plan.
 - c. Gabe will take notes at the Sangha Forum Q&A.
 - d. Jiko will work on some quiz questions for the Sangha Forum.
 - e. Thomas will reach out to Terry C. and get trained in the Zoom-to-audio recording process.
 - f. Sanin will find out more about the seminary registrar role and decide whether or not he will take it on.