

DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING minutes

1/8/2026 7-8:30PM

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, Brian, Konen, Reiju, Lindsey, Dan, Ko'in

Absent:

Facilitator: Daiko

Location: Uji

Recorder: Konen

Welcome Dan!

Tiny Meditation
60-Second Check-in
Approved minutes from prior meeting.
Next Meeting Date: March 12, 2026
Member Concerns, if any:

Action Items: Follow on Action Items:

1. **Reiju to reach out to Crossing Paths with our decision**
2. **Brian to check with Kakumyo regarding planning for Dharma Cloud Day**
3. **Brian to let Sosetsu know details of Dharma Cloud Day - DONE**
4. **Brian to let Sokuchu know so she can get the info into the bulletin - DONE**
5. **Brian to talk with Reiju about precenting - DONE**
6. **Daiko will communicate with Kakumyo about his two proposals.- DONE**
7. **We just want updates from the Dharma Garden Council and don't need to formally approve. Daiko will communicate this with the DGC. - DONE**

Agenda Items:

1. Question/Topic: Update on Special event with Claude Ashin Thomas. This is not going to happen
 - a. Background: Approved via email. We offered him two dates in February, either Thursday February 26th in the evening, or Saturday, February 28th in the morning. Still waiting to hear if either of those dates will work. They changed the dates that Claude Anshin will be in Portland and we are not able to schedule anything with him on those dates
 - b. Summary of main discussion points:

- c. Decided: (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)
 - d. **Action Item(s)**
2. Question/Topic: Cohort Group Reports
- a. Background: Myo'i submitted reports from each cohort group.
 - b. Summary of main discussion points: Please review the reports in the Dharma Council documents. Any questions or concerns about the cohort groups?
 - c. Decided: (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)
 - d. **Action Item(s)**
3. Question/Topic: Summer Sangha Party
- a. Background: It proved to be very difficult to come up with a date for the Summer Sangha Party. This was discussed at the Temple Officers' Meeting. In Dan's absence he was assigned to coordinate the party. Turns out Dan works on Saturday. Dan could do advanced planning and coordination, and Lindsey could be the day of the party coordinator.
 - b. Summary of main discussion points:
 - c. Decided: Cancel the previously scheduled Zazenkai, so the party can be on July 11
 - d. review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)
 - e. **Action Item(s)**
4. Question/Topic: Spring Sangha Forum
- a. Background: The Dharma Council is responsible for facilitating the Spring Sangha Forum. It is scheduled for April 12th. Daikō will be out of town on that date. Who is willing to be the facilitator? What would make for a meaningful presentation?
 - b. Summary of main discussion points:
 - c. Decided: (review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)
 - d. **Action Item(s)**:
5. Question/Topic: Strategic Planning Update
- a. Background: The Strategic Planning Committee has finalized the entire plan. It will be sent out to the membership by the end of February for ratification which takes approval by 50% of those responding. It should be approved and in force by March 1.
 - b. Summary of main discussion points: The strategic plan monitoring committee will include a person from Dharma Council, the Board, and the Youth Council. They will first need to meet in June and quarterly after that. Lindsay has agreed to represent the Dharma Council.
 - c. Decided:(review [Equity Lens](#) for significant decisions)
 - d. **Action Item(s)**

6. Question/Topic

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

7. Question/Topic: Health of the Sangha

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

8. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements

Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Affiliated Groups:

Temple Officers: Came up with 7/11 as the date for the Summer Sangha Party.

Zonnyo is going to start tracking member info (date of taking the precepts, date of Lay Ordination, Dharma Name, teacher, etc.) Continued the discussion about air quality and use of incense in the zendo. Discussed minimum levels of participation for sesshins.

Youth and Family Program Council: They are hosting a Youth and Family Leaders conference 2/13 - 2/14 and are expecting about 30 youth and family leaders from around the country to attend. Sokuchu is beginning filming the video shorts. Sosetsu has started interviewing people for the podcast. Bridget has begun recruiting writers for the family practice booklet.

Other Reports/Announcements