

Monterey Bay Zen Board Meeting June 6, 2021

Bow in 10:03

Present: Jana, Mark, Diane, Sara, Susan Nine, Robert , Clara, Dina

Absent: Susan Brodey, June, Kathy

Opening Reminder: We vow to let go of fixed views and to maintain an open mind in each situation as we attempt to benefit our sangha and community

I Agenda review and approval - Moved and passed

II Draft minutes review and approval - Moved and passed

III Treasurer's Report and Appreciations - Moved and passed

Funds raised to cover all expenses. We are doing better than we have in previous years.
The community has stepped up and we are grateful

IV Teaching Council (TC) Report

- Thanks to Susan N. She has been wonderful helping the TC reach their goals
- Saturday classes restarting - theme to be decided
- Thanks to Diane for her presence on Monday and Thursday zazen, Sat. class, Brown Bag and sewing circle at the S.F. Center. Hers is a wonderful presence
- Guy is starting steps towards priest ordination with the complete support of the TC.
- Are ordinations independent of MBZC re: employment status for TC?
Response: The relationships are between students and teachers who are independent contractors
- Does the Board decide on classes with TC? The TC is 100% responsible for determining the education offered to the community, sanctioned by the Board. The Board oversees the TC

V McGowan House (McG)

- Diane sent email that McG is opening to in person meetings on 6/15. There is uncertainty about masks though MCG has a masking?distancing policy
- Overview of connection to McG. Kathy has been the primary contact person. Now, due to her health, she has stepped down. Diane has agreed to take it on to centralize MBZC communication with MCG. She completes any required forms
- Church in flux awaiting new Minister who will arrive in July. Diane will have an introductory meeting with him and a committee, Susan N. & Dina (representing MCG Organizing Committee) and a representative from the TC (Robert will provide name) will also have a welcome meeting, to be followed up with ongoing meetings
- Diane will discuss Brown Bag participation with Kathy

VI Restarting in-person practice

- CA reopening 6/15
- Ashland Zen Center has reopened in person. Vaccinations are required. They are continuing Zoom as well
- Diane has purchased equipment necessary for Zoom meetings

- Are we in a position to restart in-person practice? Is TC ready to look at this?
- Diane reports morning zazen will remain on zoom for at least a month or two as many remote participants attend
- Tuesday nights? People are hesitant until July, then perhaps proof of vaccination, no chanting, masks. No re-opening policy has been formulated yet
- Guidelines for religious practices are needed; sufficient information not yet available
- Premature to make decision right now
- Need to workout how we continue to include people who have been zooming with us who are unable to join in person
 1. How can we electronically do it?
 2. What would it cost?
 3. Robert, Sara, Diane formed a committee last meeting; what are others doing including electronics
- By July option to meet in person should be ready
- Possible Tuesday in the old way and add an additional zoom night
- Considering internet issues at Cherry and McGowan, could switch back and forth with one zoom and one in person; hybrid zoom and in-person when there is no discussion
- City Center put out a statement; Diane will send link to Board
- No action items. Committee will work on a plan

VII MBZC donation to Becoming Visible

- Approved motion originally predicated on specific request from Robert, not to exceed \$500.00
- Total exhibit cost, \$750.00. Online exhibit & exhibit at the Cherry Center will recognize donors
- Robert will provide a written request for \$400.00 to Diane who will issue a check
- Clara will post information about Being Visible on our website and Facebook page

VIII Insurance

- General Liability and D&O recommended. Information from other Zen centers not available. Online information for non-profits recommends GL & D&O. Discussion:
 1. This is a complicated issue
 2. We have a decent quote, Let's do it
 3. Wait for 2 more quotes, bring Ben back for clarification and make decision which to buy (email your questions for Ben to Robert)
 4. Do we meet all requirements to collect on insurance once purchased?
 5. TC status i.e. they are independent contractors. We have no employees. Robert's email includes a link to a document explaining each
 6. Appreciations to Robert for his work on insurance
 7. Overall feeling we want to go ahead and buy insurance, See page 2 of instructions

IX Board Retreat

- Jana eloquent in stating our goal to assure the safety of our community and providing ongoing direction for the future

- Jana recognized by Diane, “You will always be a part of the Board. Your ability to focus the Board with heart and humanity is truly an inspiration.” The Board must move forward and keep from holding Jana back from starting her new life wholeheartedly, with all of her energy. Doing otherwise is not fair to her.
- Schedule a leadership retreat. Top priority, How are we going to make decisions
- Progress on starting to talk
 1. Get started so we can see where we are going
 2. By-laws review a good idea
- Jana and Mark are so important to us. Normally, Nominating Committee meets with outgoing president to start conversation about who will step in
- We do not need a subcommittee to fashion an agenda for By-laws review. We can all meet and work on the by-laws section by section. Any change to the by-laws can only be voted on by the Board.

Motion:

Schedule a date for a retreat on the By-laws early in July at the Board meeting.

Moved, seconded, passed

Bow out 11:54

Appreciations

Next Board meeting on Zoom, July 11.