

Minutes of the MZMC Board Meeting

June 4, 2018

Board members present: Rebekah Anderson, Janet Brown, Karen Davis, Paul Gilsdorf, Wayne Moskowitz, Mark Turbak, Randy Wedin

Board members absent: Jim Niland

Staff members and priests present: Tim Burkett, Admin. Director, Ted O'Toole

Other MZMC members present: Pat Stahl

1. April Minutes

The minutes were approved as corrected (for several minor spelling issues); motion by Janet, seconded by Karen.

2. Dates for Future Meetings

The group agreed to two schedule changes for upcoming Board meetings. The June meeting will be on June 24, and the July meeting will be on July 29. No other changes are anticipated for the remainder of 2018.

3. Disclose any Conflicts of Interest

None.

4. Building Committee Update (Rebekah)

Since the April Board meeting, the Building Committee has met once to review the Board's discussion at the April meeting and consider next steps. Rebekah and Admin. will meet with Dave Walter on June 5 to discuss his perspective on various building-related issues. At the next Board meeting, June 24, the Board will take a "walk-around" the building to see proposed changes.

The Building Committee will meet again before the June 24 Board meeting. At the July 29 Board meeting, the Committee plans to present a proposal on the building maintenance/renovation project.

5. Capital Campaign Committee Update (Ted)

The Capital Campaign Committee is on hold until the Building Committee and the Board make decisions regarding the scope of the maintenance/renovation project.

Ted presented his views on why we are doing the campaign. He said that the campaign arises from the heart of our practice, and it is just good Zen practice. It includes three aspects:

- **Being Bodhisattvas**—Relieving suffering through Zen practices and teachings. We are seeing today the ripple effects of action taken decades ago by Katagiri, and the Board's actions today will have ripple effects in the coming decades.

- **Being Good Stewards**—We take care of what is front of us, whether it is carefully putting away our shoes, taking care of our practice space, or replacing/repairing windows.
- **Being Good Neighbors**—MZMC is a complex web of interests and people, and every decision affects this web. This Interdependence extends beyond MZMC to include our neighbors, the individuals we reach through our outreach programs, our environment, and the aesthetics of our building and property.

In short, we are offering people an opportunity to engage with us in good Zen practice and to have an impact for years to come.

The Committee co-chairs, Ted and Rebekah, will keep members of the Committee informed on the status of the project and will verify their continued interest in serving on the Committee.

6. Quarter 2 Budget Report and Update on the Annual Appeal – Admin.

Admin. distributed a copy of the financial results through May 15. The bottom line shows a current surplus of \$14,000. For most of the line items, we are on track to meet the yearly budget. Admin. responded to questions on a number of specific line items. We continue to get new members, and the weekly membership table has helped with that.

Admin. asked for a Board member to help her review MZMC’s insurance policies, and Wayne volunteered.

The annual appeal, with a goal of \$30,000 (including the \$15,000 match), is going very well. As of today, we are at about \$24,000 (includes \$12,00 of matching funds). Admin. expects that we will reach the goal and may exceed it by as much as \$10,000.

The Board authorized Ted and Admin. to be signers on the Parnassus and Vanguard accounts (Wayne moved and Paul seconded). The current endowment is about \$180,000.

7. Development Subcommittee Update (Mark and Janet)

Mark reported on discussions and plans for meeting our annual fundraising goals—both in 2018 and in future years. A conservative estimate at this time shows that we will have a shortfall of about \$12,000 in 2018. The two big items are the annual appeal and the “Mindfulness at Work” event. The suggestion of also planning on \$5,000 from major gifts was discussed, and it was decided that the focus with respect to major donors should be on the capital campaign (not 2018 fundraising).

Several possible fundraising events coming up later in the year include the tea ceremony, a year-end holiday card, and the annual “Give to the Max” event. Other possible revenue streams had been suggested at the Board retreat, and they will be considered as we plan for 2019.

One particular suggestion was selling zafus and zabutons. One idea would be to buy them in bulk and then sell them as a service to our members (perhaps with some minor MZMC customization). Sewing and then selling our own products from starting materials is problematic for several reasons:

- No MZMC teacher is willing to take a leadership role right now.
- To build inventory, there is an initial cash outlay.
- Storage space for inventory can be an issue.

8. Mindfulness at Work Update 2018 (Pat and Janet)

This is a major fundraising event, with the possibility of bringing in \$8,000. Pat distributed a flyer that can be used to publicize the event, which is scheduled for October 5 at the Wilder Foundation. For corporate sponsorship of the event, the amounts requested will be lower this year (compared to last year). To publicize the event this year, the approach will be to encourage selected MZMC members to publicize within their own networks, place of employment, and social media. Pat distributed drafts of two letters: a letter to members soliciting their assistance and a letter that can be used by those members for their outreach.

Board members were asked—and agreed—to identify and contact specific members who can help with this publicity.

Several additional suggestions came up during this discussion. First, it would be helpful to get a testimonial quote from someone who has attended and benefited from a previous “Mindfulness in the Workplace” event. Second, MZMC could consider commissioning a book on the history of MZMC or the history of Zen in Minnesota and the Midwest. We are soon approaching the 50th year celebration for these events. There may be an opportunity to get interest from other Zen centers or to get funding from a granting agency (e.g., Minnesota Historical Society).

9. Teacher Report (Tim and Ted)

Tim reported that this year’s guest teacher will be coming in September—**Hozan Alan Senauke** from the Berkeley Zen Center.

The Leadership Group is discussing the possibility of changing the Sunday schedule so that it includes two Dharma talks. This is hoped to relieve the crowded space issue we currently have with our one Dharma talk on Sunday.

We are still continuing to increase the number of priests in training.

Ted reminded the Board that there will be two events coming up for Tim’s new book, *Zen in the Age of Anxiety: Wisdom for Navigating Our Modern Lives*—on June 6 at Magers and Quinn Booksellers and June 24 at MZMC. Tim announced that he would be doing a book tour in California in September.

Ted reported that a new book, *Comfortable with Being Groundless: A Guide for Beginners*, by Guy Gibbon and **a Leni deMik**, will be discussed at MZMC on June 10.

Three training sessions related to racism are being scheduled for later this year, beginning with one in July for the Leadership Group, followed by two more on September 29 and October 20.

There are currently five MZMC members going through the lay initiation process, including sewing their rakusus.

The recent retreat at Hokyoji was a success.

10. Committee Updates

Randy reported that the Membership Committee sponsored a very successful potluck on April 28. Several attendees described it as “the best one yet.” Two factors that may have contributed to the success were the Sangha artists’ displays and the coincidental scheduling of the spring work practice day

on that same day (earlier in the afternoon). The Committee will be meeting next on June 10, and a summer picnic is being planned.

The new program to assign a Membership Committee member as a “Zen buddy” to new members has been started, but it has not yet become an established success. One Board member mentioned that an important part of their becoming more involved in the Sangha was when they were invited to become a doan, and involving new members in work practice might be a good way to get them more involved. Board members were encouraged to spend some time during Sunday tea engaging with new members and first-time attendees.

11. New Business

None.

12. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned (motioned by Janet, seconded by Karen).