

November 21, 2021 MZMC Board Minutes

Board Members Attending In Person: Chair Randy Wedin, Katie Albright, Tanja Nelson, Jim Niland

Board Members Attending via Zoom: Deborah Mielke, Paul Gilsdorf, Mark Turbak

Staff Attending in Person: Guiding Teacher Ted O'Toole, Administrative Director

Members Attending in Person: Wayne Moskowitz

Meeting called to order at 11:33 a.m.

1. Approval of October, 2021 Minutes: Motion to approve: Tanja N. 2nd Katie A. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of November 13, 2021 special board minutes: Motion to approve Jim N. 2nd Tanja N. Motion carried unanimously,

2. Conflicts of Interest: None noted
3. Discussion about Nokomis Avenue Property (Ted O'Toole): Since the last board meeting it was discovered that the long-time MZMC member who bequeathed a substantial amount of his estate to MZMC (including house) had also signed a Transfer on Death Deed (TODD) in addition to his will. The TODD specified the house should be 100% bequeathed to MZMC (unlike the rest of his estate that was divided in several shares). The TODD legally supersedes the will.

The board directed Chair Randy Wedin to communicate to the will's executor and the other recipients of bequeathments that the board believed it was the long-time MZMC member's intent that the house be 100% given to MZMC as he had signed the TODD for it that supersedes the will. Chair Randy Wedin was also directed to communicate to the other recipients of the will's bequeathments that they had a reasonable amount of time to communicate back to the board about their thoughts on this matter and provide additional information that would allow the Board to determine the final course of action.

4. Teacher Report (Ted O'Toole): Before Ted delivered his teacher report, the board did zazen for several minutes. Ted said MZMC had just had a string of great events: the initiation of 15 people (including 5 long-distance members), Bill Woywod's shuso ceremony, the Right Use of Power training Ben Connelly led that was attended by leaders of many other Buddhist communities as well as MZMC, a Council Process meeting, and a one-day retreat.

Ted said the DEIA committee was continuing to meet monthly. He also said participation in mentoring dokusans was strong.

Ted said Tim Burkett was getting better, and that the MZMC community had done a good job of covering anything that needed covering-like people stepping in to help lead Rohatsu.

He noted attendance seemed to be rising, and that MZMC seemed to be returning to some normalcy after COVID and the building re-opening

5. Board Election Check-in (Randy Wedin): Ted O'Toole said we had a great board and encouraged board members to continue serving. Board Chair Randy Wedin asked Board members who had

served more than one term to let him know if they planned to continue serving next year. Jim Niland volunteered to fill the vacant Secretary position.

6. Committee Reports:

Membership Committee (Tanja Nelson) Blank Friday will be this Fri., Nov. 26 and they were doing another social media push to encourage attendance. The next social event will be the first Friday of January. We will do another New Year's Eve bell-ringing ceremony starting at 10:30 pm and ending just after midnight. She noted we will set goal(s) for our membership drive(s) during the administrative report.

Technology Committee (Paul Gilsdorf) At the shuso ceremony and since, we achieved our goal of the AV computer in the basement driving Zoom (Chris Moldec-Halverson came down from Duluth for the shuso to help with that.) They are still dealing with mike, feedback and other issues. Jeromy Thotland has been trying to automate what he can. Paul also thanked Bernie Nelson for all his help. Networking equipment is up and running-and we are using a permanent built-in camera instead of a camera on a tripod. The Intro class is still using just a laptop.

Building Committee (Admin) Admin is continuing to work on replacing part of the zendo floor. She is also working on electrical code issues involving the new kitchen stove, and some issues with the 2nd and 3rd floor windows which may require replacing some of them.

After discussion of the issues related to using volunteers for snow removal, Admin asked the board to approve her hiring a snow removing service for up to \$4000 for this winter—they will come over any time we have a half-inch or more of snow. Motion to approve Jim N. 2nd Katie A. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Administrative Report—Admin. outlined MZMC's financial position now the capital campaign is essentially completed. We now as planned have a long-term \$275,000 loan payable over up to 25 years. We also now as planned have a short-term \$200,000 loan that will be paid off in 2023 with the remaining capital campaign pledges coming in.

As of right now we have \$61,228 in operating funds (she noted the board had voted to keep a minimum balance of \$50,000 in operating funds.) As of now we also have \$33,847 in savings and \$43,365 in investments—which is pledged to defray capital campaign costs. Hence during this lean period she is carefully monitoring spending and conservatively, not budgeting anything yet from the bequest (or the sale of the two paintings donated to MZMC.)

Admin. gave the board the P&L statement through October showing us in the black by about \$6,000.

The board discussed membership goal(s). Admin. said past experience suggested a membership goal of at least \$100,000 for CY '22. The board agreed to a goal of \$105,000 for CY '22-as well as keeping our goal of at least a 10% membership growth in CY '22.

8. New Goals Discussion: The board brainstormed priorities. They included a capital maintenance budget, landscape and gardens restoration-including a storage shed, living wage for those working at MZMC, DEIA, a full-time programming assistant, instituting a 2-year children's program, an enhanced Zoom presence, a volunteer coordinator, and establishing a major donor and planned giving program.

9. New Business: None.

10. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn Jim N. 2nd Katie A. Motion carried unanimously at 1:30 pm

Next meeting Sun., Dec. 19 11:30 am-1:30 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jim Niland