

MZMC Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 18th, 2022

Members attending in person: Deb Mielke, Carrie Garcia, Katie Albright

Members attending via Zoom: Chris Modec-Halverson, Mark Turbak

Staff attending in person: Administrator (until 12:45), Ted O'Toole

Community members attending in person: Bernie Nelson (until 12:15)

Meeting came to order at 11:35 am

1. Conflicts of interest: none noted
2. Minutes: Motion to approve last month's minutes made by Carrie G., seconded by Katie A. Motion passed.
3. Administration: We have received the funds from the estate an amount almost equivalent to the debt we took on for the building project. Admin handed out copies of the profit and loss report and noted that we are behind currently, as expected since we have intentionally not done any fundraising yet this year. After the single, annual membership/ donation drive in November, we will try not to operate in the red. Creating a sustaining budget will require growing our pledges by \$70,000, so we should communicate this greater need. Appeal letters will go out in November, and there will be more visibility on social media and a wider reach. There was some discussion about what to call our combined membership drive/ annual appeal to best communicate our ask. Admin also mentioned that securing a snow removal service has been a challenge.
4. Asset allocation (Admin): Should we use the income from the bequest to pay off our loan or invest the funds? Wayne Moskowitz expressed his opinion via an email read by the Admin, and Bernie gave his perspective. After some discussion, Carrie G. moved to use the bequest to repay the loan; Katie A. seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.
5. Teacher report (Ted): The Soto Zen Buddhist Association conference was this weekend. Ted and Mark contributed, and Ben Connelly ran the conference as interim president. The newly elected president is Dokai Georgeson, Guiding Teacher at Hokyoji. 22 people attended the work weekend at the Steger Center, where much work was accomplished, though there were some challenges with the facilities. The 50th Anniversary celebrations went well, with a leaders' event Friday evening, a Saturday morning walk with about 40 people, a Saturday afternoon gathering of about 75 people, and a Sunday panel with Ted, Tim Burkett, and Karen Sunna that gave insight into the early days of MZMC. Ted expressed feelings of responsibility, wonder, and joy and acknowledged that making this event happen was a lot of work! There are at least 22 people signed up for the Hokyoji

retreat, all in-person. Online participation has fallen off, with the exception of the introduction to meditation. Next year we will do four parallel retreats, with an in-person session one weekend and an online session a different weekend.

6. DEIA report (Ted): The committee has not met recently. Minna Jain is leaving to concentrate on their work at Clouds in Water. Jey Ehrenhalt has joined. The POC sitting group starts November 7th. We are making an effort to weave land acknowledgements into rituals. There was discussion about including women, and the importance of diversity in our most visible roles like greeters and doans.
7. Review of annual goals (Deb): Deb pointed out that the board provides leadership by setting goals and assess whether they are being achieved, not to micromanage the process, though input from those with expertise is welcome. Reading through the annual goals together we found that we have achieved or made significant progress on most of them. We would like to add a goal describing our efforts to tighten up forms and train volunteers; Ted will create some language to discuss next time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

There may not be a meeting in December.