

MZMC Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, April 16th, 2023

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

Members attending via Zoom: Tanja Nelson, Chris Modec-Halverson

Staff attending in person: Admin., Ted O'Toole

Meeting came to order at 11:40 am

1. We welcomed new board member Matt Streit to his first board meeting.
2. Conflict of interest: None noted for this meeting. Yearly disclosure forms will be emailed.
3. Approval of minutes: (Minutes from February 19th – March was the annual sangha meeting.) Ted requested removing a sentence. Carrie G. moved to approve the minutes with the correction; Chris seconded; the motion passed.
4. Guiding Teacher Report (Ted): We still have great participation. There are 50 participants signed up for practice period, and there were many people at the retreat yesterday. There are a number of guest speakers scheduled, and in the spring Ted, Will Steger and Tom Gooddel will offer a seminar. Ben Connelly went to Vietnam. Keido Jeromy Thotland will be doing a 30-day retreat in China and will be hosted by Venerable Ding. We will soon be able to resume activities such as work practice and tea outdoors. There was a discussion of the benefits of both hybrid and in-person only retreats. There is a need for a larger pool of tech volunteers as well as official training and written instructions for this role.
5. DEIA Report (Ted): The results of the demographic survey are in and are available online. It serves as a baseline to measure change. These results will be discussed at the council process meeting on May 15th. The priest group wants to prioritize making this community feel welcoming to all. There is an Awakening to Race meeting tomorrow night. Carrie reported that the POC sitting group is small but has a few regulars, and they have been struggling with tech challenges.
6. Annual Meeting Recap and Board Elections (Deb and Ted): 76 people participated in the election, showing good interest and support. There was a discussion of how to include new people and make the annual meeting process smoother. The board officers presented for consideration were Katie A. continuing as secretary, Chris M-H. was offered treasurer and will consider, Jim N. remaining Vice President and Deb M. remaining president. Matt S. moved to accept the slate; Carrie G. seconded; the motion passed. Tanja will remain chair of the Membership Committee and Admin. formally thanked her for her work.

7. Membership (Tanja): We hosted a family movie night in March. There were lots of adults and some kids. As this event seemed popular with young adults as well as parents and children, we should focus on appealing to all ages. There is a mala workshop next weekend, with many more interested than we can accommodate in one class. The committee is working to schedule the annual picnic. There was discussion of coordinating with the Ino in signing up interested volunteers. We are building momentum in our efforts to include kids.
8. Annual Goals Review (Ted): Ted proposed a wording change to allow more flexibility in scheduling weekend guest teachers. Deb M. moved to approve the change; Katie A. seconded; motion passed. There are projects for which we will need to approve funding including security cameras and improving the drainage on the south side of the building.
9. Admin and Fundraising (Admin): Admin passed out a statement of financial position. We would like to maintain \$100,000 in reserve, but we are not there yet. The value of our building, land, and renovations add considerably to our assets, and we probably need more insurance. Admin also passed out a profit and loss report showing that we are in the black for the first quarter. The policy of suggesting a donation amount rather than a setting a fee for programs is so far bringing in more participation and more funds. We still need to make more effort in fundraising. Admin explained the higher numbers in certain categories in this report. We need to fundraise another \$60,000 for the year. We will probably need an annual appeal, aiming for \$15,000 - \$20,000. Many ideas for a fundraising campaign and other income streams were discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.