

## **Milwaukee Zen Center Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 17, 2020**

**Meeting (held via Zoom due to COVID-19 social distancing measures) was called to order at 11:06am.**

*Present:* Reirin Gumbel, Susan Winecki, Mary Bernau-Eigen, Eric Vogel, Greg York, Lorraine McNamara-McGraw, Tesny, Cheryl, Jim, Les Morris, Bob Balderson, Todd Krohn, Tom Tolan, Isabel Kent.

### **Review of Minutes of the 03/31/2019 Annual Meeting:**

Corrections need to be made to the slate of candidates listed so that only names, and not officer positions, are included. Lorraine moved to approve the minutes as corrected and Bob seconded. All in favor, 13-0.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Greg presented the following:

#### Overview:

- Figures presented are as of May 12, 2020 and don't reflect income and expenses after that date. Our fiscal year runs from March 1 through the end of February.
- Current available cash \$32,785. \$2,806 of this is allocated to our Prison Fund, \$500 is allocated to the Retired Teachers Fund, and \$5,147 is allocated to our Facilities Fund, leaving \$27,067 available for operating and contingency expenses.
- Available cash at the beginning of last fiscal year was \$26,530.
- Our largest income sources from last year were Membership Dues \$16,841, General Donations \$5,832 and Special Events and Classes \$1,904.
- Our largest expense categories last year were Payroll \$4,800, Insurance \$3,881 and Utilities \$3,601.

#### 2020 Budget Highlights:

- We expect general operating costs to remain the same or increase a moderate amount in most categories.
- We expect printing and postage costs to decrease as we are no longer mailing The Mirror in printed format.
- We have four Funds that we're maintaining:
  - a Facilities Fund to pay for emergency or unexpected larger repairs to the Zen Center building, property or infrastructure. Expenses paid out of this Fund are reviewed and approved by the Board.
  - the Prison Fund is managed by Tonen. It is intended to pay for supplies that go to individuals who are incarcerated. Reirin could provide a little more context to this Fund.
  - the Retired Teachers Fund which provides much-needed financial support to Tozen.
  - the Scholarship Fund intended to support new members into our sangha who may not be able to afford monthly contributions.

- We have \$5,892 in anticipated budget surplus for 2020, which will be allocated by the Board. We expect these dollars to go toward increasing our Facilities Fund, increasing our Retired Teachers Fund (in addition to requesting additional donations from sangha members for this purpose) and seeding the Scholarship Fund. In addition, this surplus will be allocated across several of the Board's approved goals and projects that Susan will be presenting.

Eric asked about the trajectory of MZC's funds over the history of the organization. Mary stated that because Reirin receives a salary, MZC necessarily has more money to be able to account for this. Hoko was the first priest in residence to receive money.

Lorraine moved to approve the report as presented and Tom seconded. The motion passed, 13-0.

### **President's Report:**

Susan stated that in the past year, the sangha has grown together in community. Reirin introduced attendees to new ceremonies and events, the center has a new altar and Buddha, it successfully hosted the Branching Streams Conference in September, the board acquired a new treasurer, and the website has been updated.

Though in the midst of the pandemic, MZC is looking forward to implementing the following in 2020:

- Milwaukee Zen Center's 35th Anniversary
- Development and implementation of a children's program.
- Guest Speakers
- Increasing the awareness of the Retired Teacher's Fund, Scholarship Funds, and children's program.
- Installation of a third floor fire escape.

### **Priest's Report:**

Reirin presented the following:

- She is in contact with other teachers about dealing with the pandemic and the climate crisis.
- Practice is being held on zoom and has been going well, including classes on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- Reirin has been in contact with most sangha members, as well as with prisoners, who are often scared about the situation.
- She is planning on a precepts class once the current Tuesday class is over.

Upcoming events include:

- Buddhist Peace Fellowship of Milwaukee Interdependence Day picnic may still happen in July.
- The Jewel Mirror Sesshin may still happen, but if not, Reirin may host a longer sitting at MZC.
- SZBA conference will likely be held virtually in September this year.
- Reirin had planned a visit to California that may still occur.

- A Fall practice period will be held September 13 through at least November 8 (but maybe longer). More details to come.
- Sejiki - Hungry Ghost Ceremony - will be hosted October 31 and honor feelings of not having enough and those who have passed and are not at peace.
- Rohatsu Sesshin is planned to occur the second week of December.
- Enlightenment Ceremony will be held December 13.
- Reirin's blog, newsletters, recordings of classes and regular talks are available on website. Members may submit articles to be included in newsletters.

### **Membership Report:**

Mary Bernau-Eigen, Membership Coordinator for MZC, presented the following:

- MZC currently has 42 paying members, including individuals donating above and beyond their monthly dues.
- Mary spoke to a question posed earlier by Eric, regarding surveying membership and asking specifically about the center's curriculum. When Hoko was Resident Priest, MZC surveyed the membership and it's long overdue. She proposed the board do this again.
- Fundraiser donations are slightly down, which may be due to higher amount of members. The closure of the center may be impacting this.
- Anyone wanting to remember MZC in wills or estates can contact the board or Reirin.
- Thank you to those coming to do work at the center!

### **Old Business:**

None.

### **New Business:**

Bob proposed a change be made to the bylaws -- amend "the annual meeting of the..." - This allows the board to set the fiscal year, as stated in 7.1. Eric moved to approve the proposal, Mary seconded, and the motion carried, 13-0.

The board also addressed that the gradual reopening of MZC is still up for discussion.

### **Board Nominations for Election:**

Susan explained the requirements and scope of being on the board. Mary Bernau-Eigen and Tom Tolan will be leaving the board, while Bob Balderson, Isabel Kent, Greg York, and Susan Winecki have been nominated to remain on the board. Lorraine moved to nominate Todd Krohn as a board member for the upcoming term. Susan seconded and the motion was approved, 13-0.

Lorraine asked the membership if there was any news to be addressed and hearing no one step forward, moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Next Meeting:** TBA

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:11pm

Isabel Kent, Secretary