

## **Milwaukee Zen Center Board Meeting, June 14**

**Meeting via Zoom was called to order at 11:08am.**

*Present:* Susan Winecki, Bob Balderson, Reirin Gumbel, Greg York, Todd Krohn, Isabel Kent.

**Minutes of May 17, 2020 approved as corrected, 5-0;** Bob moved, Greg seconded.

**Minutes of February 9, 2020 meeting approved, 5-0;** Greg moved, Bob seconded.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Greg provided the following report:

#### Overview

- Figures presented are as of June 14, 2020 but do not reflect income received in the form of checks or cash at the Center between May 12 and June 14. Our fiscal year runs from March 1 through the end of February.
- Current available cash \$32,481 (down from \$32,785 at last report).
  - \$24,516 available for operating and contingency expenses.
- Available cash at the beginning of last fiscal year was \$26,530.
- Our largest income sources in May were Membership Dues \$3,190, General Donations \$351 and Inventory Sales \$196.
- Our largest expense categories in May were Payroll \$400, Utilities 374 and Cost of Inventory \$133.

#### May-June Highlights

- Reirin's auto insurance paid. Amount is down this year from last.
- Income: Overall we have received more income than expected in our budget, although General Donations are down. Membership Dues and Inventory Sales are both over budget. At end of May, we were \$596 over expected income for the year.
- Expense: Most categories are under budget, with exception of Business Expenses (\$263 over), Postage (\$33 over) and Bank Fees (\$25 over). At end of May, we were \$3,647 under expected expenses for the year.
- Overall we are highly favorable for the year at this point.
- We have the opportunity to seed or expand on the Funds that we've established:
  - Facilities Fund (currently \$5,247). Treasurer's suggestion: as a Board, define the target amount for this fund; immediately appropriate additional funds from existing surplus to reach our target or increase monthly allocation to \$250 until target is reached.
  - Prison Fund (currently \$2,718). Treasurer's suggestion: this fund seems to be adequate for the work that it's intended to enable.
  - Retired Teachers Fund (currently \$0). This fund currently increases to \$600 over the course of 6 months and then is depleted when a check is written to Tozen. Treasurer's suggestion: increase contribution to match the current

- \$1,200 annual donation that feeds this fund. Encourage individual contributors to offer donations earmarked for this fund during our Annual Fundraiser.
- Scholarship Fund (currently \$0). Treasurer's suggestion: seed this fund with \$1,080, which is adequate to fund 3 members for a year at the White Tiger level (\$30 monthly)
  - We still have approximately \$5,892 in anticipated budget surplus for 2020 in addition to the unallocated \$24,516 operating cash, which the Board can allocate to our Funds or to projects.

Bob moved to approve the report as presented and Todd seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

### **Priest's Report**

- Reirin and Susan attended a sit-in yesterday as part of the protests occurring in the city.
- SZBA issued a statement in solidarity with people of color and asked zendos to incorporate this into their practice or programming. Reirin also attended a meeting with SZBA regarding reopening. All centers are listening to the governors in their respective states and medical professionals in determining a path forward.
- The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee is engaged voter registration efforts. Reirin also participated in a zoom meeting with faith leaders, Maria Hamilton and Reggie Jackson, that has been recorded and is available to view online.
- The current class on a book by Thich Nhat Hanh is going well.
- MZC will hold a Practice Period in the fall, which will possibly take the precepts as its theme.
- Reirin will be visiting California soon to see family and her teacher.
- Reirin participated in an Election Sesshin, during which participants wrote letters to individuals to encourage voting. The event on Zoom was organized by Berkeley Zen Center.

### **Old Business**

Reirin proposed starting to open the Center to a limited number of individuals, who need to register with her and be screened beforehand and practice specific safety protocols. There would be a cap of 6 people in the zendo all at once (excluding Reirin). The option to participate by Zoom will remain. Reirin will send out a notice to membership.

Bob moved that, effective immediately, MZC be opened under the restricted conditions Reirin has proposed. Greg seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

### **New Business**

Discussion surrounded how to proceed with the following funds:

Prisoners Fund: Currently at \$2,700 due to monthly contributions from Tonen. Reirin has used this to purchase books for prisoners and Tonen has used it to send them malas.

Emergency Maintenance Fund - The board had previously determined that \$100-250 must be contributed per month, as a contingency for a donation. Reirin mentioned that there are maintenance projects that need to be addressed, including the rain pipe that drips onto the porch stairs, as well as new screens. However, this is more general maintenance rather than an emergency. Bob agreed to look at these maintenance issues. Bob moved to add \$250 per month to this account and Greg seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

Retired Teachers Fund - Bob moved that MZC allocate \$100 per month to the account and that that money go to Tozen. Greg seconded and mentioned that the exact allocation needs to be determined with Tozen. Reirin will ask him. Susan and/or Reirin will also mention to Tonen that, as a retired teacher, she doesn't need to contribute money to the Prisoners Fund.

Scholarship Fund - A specific donation will be received for Monica. The Board discussed offering three scholarships per year. Bob moved to move \$720 into this fund for two more scholarships this year, and those can be awarded at Reirin's discretion. Todd seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Reirin briefly stepped out of the meeting and Susan read an email from a member encouraging MZC to increase Reirin's monthly stipend. Todd moved to increase Reirin's monthly stipend to \$600 and Bob seconded. Greg amended the motion to make the monthly stipend \$700 and Todd seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**Next Meeting:** August 2, 11:00am - 1:00pm

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:36pm