

Milwaukee Zen Center Board Meeting, December 6, 2020

Meeting, via Zoom, was called to order at 11:32am

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

Minutes of October 4, 2020 meeting approved, 5-0; Bob moved, Greg seconded.

Treasurer's Report

Greg provided the following report:

Overview

- Current available cash \$33,304 (\$22,697 main checking, \$5,000 Educators accounts, \$2,893 PayPal, \$2,714 prison fund checking) (down \$1,738 from October report)
 - Facilities Fund: \$6,897
 - Retired Teachers Fund: \$100 (expense due to \$1,320 check to Tozen)
 - Scholarship Fund: \$360 (expense due to scholarship awarded to Matt Anderson)
- Available cash at the beginning of last fiscal year was \$26,530.
- Our largest income sources in October / November were Membership Dues \$3,565, Annual Fundraising \$340 and Online Sales \$194.
- Our largest expense categories during the same period were Payroll \$1,400, Retired Teachers Payment \$1,320 and Utilities \$637.

Highlights

- 9-month budget review on following page: income slightly higher than anticipated, and expenses at budget level. Some budget categories should be combined / refined for next fiscal year for ease of administration, for example, Internet and Computer Services could be a helpful category.
- Educators Credit Union account set up. Will begin depositing and spending out of this account in month of December. Once any automatic payments have been adjusted, debit cards and checkbook received, and PayPal reconfigured, Associated Bank accounts may be closed.
- Still waiting on signer change to be approved with Pax World.

Additionally, Bob moved that \$15,000 be moved to the existing PAX account to begin accruing interest. Greg seconded and the motion was approved, 5-0.

Susan moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Todd seconded. The motion was approved, 5-0.

Priest's Report

Reirin provided the following report:

Over the past couple months:

- The zendo has remained closed due to COVID-19
- Fall Practice Period, including 2 classes, went well.
- Carl Jerome, and sangha members, Eric Vogel, and Mary Bernau-Eigen gave talks.
- One-day and half-day sittings occurred.
- The Sejiki Ceremony was held for the first time at MZC
- Rohatsu Sesshin was held.
- Reirin has been engaging in social action through Interfaith and Buddhist Peace Fellowship, as well as giving out meals, including on Thanksgiving.
- A funeral was held for beloved sangha member, Joanne Lehman.
- A ceremony was held for the mother of sangha member, Tom Tolan.

Coming up:

- Reirin will be participating in a San Francisco Zen Center January intensive via zoom.
- A new class inspired by the SFZC intensive and based on "The Lotus Sutra" by Gene Reeves will be instituted at MZC.

Old Business

Discussion surrounded the reopening of the Center for in-house services. Board members agreed that it would be premature to re-open at this time due to increasing COVID-19 cases. Discussion will continue at future board meetings.

Board members also discussed Pax investment's long-term use. It was determined that the investment could incorporate contributions to charitable causes and/or organizations, and that this could be part of MZC's 2021 plan. Greg moved that the board accept this plan and Susan seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

Followed up on statement about occupying Indian land. Reirin will write this statement and post it on the website near the mission statement.

The Ethics and Grievances Committee Guidelines and Procedures drafted by Todd and Reirin were discussed and edits were proposed:

- In the current document, "he/she" will be replaced with "they."
- The sentence, "The Sixteen Precepts will guide the committee in preserving confidentiality and transparency as appropriate..." will be moved to the first paragraph.
- The Committee shall be appointed by the Board, and remove the need for approval by the Resident Priest.
- In the sentence, "The Ethics committee will involve other sangha members or the entire Sangha using formats..." "may" will be replaced by "will."
- Todd will edit the draft and re-send to the board.

Bob moved to approve the Ethics and Grievances Committee Guidelines and Procedures as amended. Greg seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 7, 2020, 11:30am-1:00pm

Meeting Adjourned: 12:33pm; Bob moved, Greg seconded.

Isabel Kent,
Secretary