

## Milwaukee Zen Center – Board of Directors

### Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2022

#### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Milwaukee Zen Center was called to order at 12:02 P.M. on May 15, 2022 at the Milwaukee Zen Center, with some board members attending over Zoom.

#### **Present**

Susan Winecki, President  
Bob Balderson, Vice President  
Noah Johnson, Secretary  
Frank Fischer, Board Member  
Kellett Koch, Board Member  
Reirin Gumbel, Resident Priest

#### **Absent**

Greg York, Treasurer  
Jim Zimmerman, Board Member

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the February 20, 2022 board meeting were brought to attention and accepted without objection.

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

Reirin presented the Priest's Report. On February 22, there had been a workshop by Jay English about diversity, specifically on the subject of different racialized forms of speech. There were also events celebrating the spring season, including equinox and Earth Day. A class is on-going on the subject of "Living by Vow." There was a monthly full-moon ceremony, a half-day sit, sewing instruction, and working with individual students. Other events of interest included:

- Meeting with a UW-Milwaukee world religions class by Prof. Hilary Snow
- Tuesdays in March, five online events concerning climate change and local action in Milwaukee
- Interfaith meeting at the art museum on the subject of Art & Faith
- Guest dharma talk at Ancient Dragon in Chicago on March 20
- Retreat at Sienna center from April 1 to April 3 on topic of transformation
- Branching Streams conference in Chicago
- Memorial for Katagiri Roshi

Upcoming events include Buddha's Birthday celebration, Buddhist Peace Fellowship and MICAH meetings, an interfaith dedication of a peace pole, and a retreat at the Sienna center in June.

## **Old Business**

### Solar panels

There were continued efforts to look into the possibility of installing solar panels on the zendo roof, led by Bob. Bob also looked into WE Energy "Energy for Tomorrow," which involves changing the source of grid electricity for the zendo to renewable sources. This would require much less capital investment, as it would just increase the monthly electricity bill by two or three dollars to switch to entirely renewable sources. By contrast, installing physical solar panels would involve \$15,000 for panels, \$15,000 for batteries, and \$5,000 for installation. Bob recommended changing the electricity billing so that grid electricity was sourced from renewable energy sources. Motion was carried to switch billing without objection.

### Rear garden

The corner of the garden was moved back since garbage trucks were damaging it in its former location. However, even in the new position, the garbage trucks continue to damage the wall. Bob will call Rodriguez landscaping for an estimate to repair the structure. Bob will also call the city's public works to discuss the matter. A motion was carried without objection allocating a maximum of \$2,000 for repairs.

### Groundskeeper

The search continues for a groundskeeper. Previous candidates Jack and Sophie have backed out, and we continue to look for someone to fill the position. A motion was carried without objection to search for a groundskeeper, for a rate up to \$20 per hour.

## **New Business**

### Auto insurance

Greg has paid for auto insurance on behalf of Reirin. A brief discussion determined that the board had already previously agreed to pay for this auto insurance consistently.

### Reimbursement for conferences

Bob moved to reimburse Reirin for all expenses relating to the Branching Streams conference. A motion was carried without objection to reimburse any expenses up to \$700 for the Branching Streams conference. There was also a discussion about approving reimbursements for upcoming conferences in advance in order to expedite payments. The upcoming Soto Shu conference will involve expenses of \$300 in addition to airfare. A motion was carried without objection to reimburse \$300 for the conference as well as any additional cost related to airfare.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:43 P.M. by Susan Winecki. The date of the next board meeting was set for July 3, 2022 from noon to 1:00 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Noah Johnson