

Monterey Bay Zen Board Meeting August 8, 2021

Bow in 10:04

Present: Jana, Mark, Diane, Sara, Susan N, Robert , Clara, Dina

Absent: Susan B., June

I Consensus items: approval of agenda as amended, minutes July 11 and July 21, Treasurer's report

Moved and passed

II Treasurer's report

Wendy wants more than 2 people to be designated to sign checks

III Board Retreat

Discussion:

- August 22 retreat on by-laws scheduled outdoors from 10-12
- Should it be open invitation? Invite certain people? Past Board members (why they left the Board)

Motion:

MBZC hold a retreat and invite members from the Practice Committee (PC) and Teaching Council (TC) with the understanding that the Board will make final decisions on changes to the By-laws and that the retreat be held out of doors.

Moved, seconded and passed.

- It will be set-up as a hybrid meeting
- Cherry internet hardwired-has been used outdoors between the office and gallery. Good location for the retreat
- Beneficial for the by-laws subcommittee to meet for one hour prior to retreat to review the By-laws. Jana will email Guy and Susan N. with information: Monday @ 11:00

IV Development Committee

- Mark resigned as Development Chair
- Development chair responsible for organizing fundraising. It's crucial we have a new chair with emphasis on fundraising as we are in the red for this year. We cannot keep spending from our existing funds.
- The Board is shrinking, 8 active members. Possible to reach out beyond Board for Chair.
- Board membership discussion-Nominations for Board. Need someone skilled/willing to be chair
- Membership dues discussion
  1. Some people would be willing to be on Ad Hoc committees though not interested in being on the Board
  2. Divide responsibilities by event
  3. Visionary, maybe Ad Hoc committee for new fundraising ideas
  4. Chair builds committee which then does the tactics. Fundraising just one facet of development
  5. Alternate view of fundraising-other Zen centers require membership dues

6. Susan N. willing to research fundraising methodology. She will organize Development Committee meeting leading discussion regarding fundraising. Robert will tell Paul about the meeting and send information inviting others to Clara for EBlast and website. The Committee: Susan N. Sara, Robert
  7. Clara says it's easy to add membership dues to website, register and pay for Zoom workshops prior to workshop
  8. Good idea to collect money prior to class participation
  9. Use EBlast for classified e.g. recruit Board members or fundraising
  10. Still pandemic; hard to plan fundraising events
  11. Cannot rest on laurels because of money in the bank
  12. Zoom fundraising going on.
- Committee Chair job is to organize/run meetings and report to Board

#### V Status of in-person activities

- TC report on this topic:
  1. Cherry Center now able to do Zoom. Hybrid events not quite ready. Technology in place, testing with Diane and Robert Tuesday to iron out any problems making it ready when the time is right. Appreciations to Robert and Diane.
  2. Discussed proof of vaccinations, no chanting, masks, spacing, etc. for in person meeting; not for August or into September
  3. City Center has some cases of covid among vaccinated; back on lockdown
  4. Diane purchased items for MBZC use in hybrid meetings. Appreciations to Diane
  5. Post TC decision re: in person and target dates for in person activities to keep public aware of our thinking on resumption of in person activities. Robert will write something and circulate to TC for publication. Clara and John will update covid page. Last posting on covid 8/2020
  6. Breakthrough cases not rare
- Sesshin 2022 - a location will be needed if we decide to have one. It will be part of the budget process. TC report:
  1. Yes, want to do a practice period and weekend sesshin if we can find a location
  2. Sara called Hidden Valley - They are willing to rent
  3. Someone needs to call Villa Angelica
  4. CV zendo a possibility for extended sitting
  5. Need to recognize that during covid we might need to cancel
- No Access to McGowan till early September, uncertain after that. If we start up in early September, it will be at the Cherry Center
- Incorporate virtual activity into practice period
- Meet at Cherry Center to sew and do training
- Online Practice Period difficult. Online does not replace in-person, but if covid continues, online practice needs to be figured out
- Robert is putting together a day long outdoor walking practice - Mountains and Waters Day all outdoors
- Now is the time to schedule practice for February and March. Recommendation that the TC recruit someone to be sesshin director
- Sesshin considerations:
  1. February flu season
  2. Allowed people to come and go in the past

3. No sharing rooms
  4. Limit numbers
  5. February too soon for in-person session
- Up to TC to make connections with locations, discuss options

## VI Board Membership

- Kathy has resigned due to serious health situation
- Routinely 10-14 Board members
- November 1 usual start date for new Board members
- Should we establish Nominating Committee?
  1. By-laws state minimum # members is 5
  2. Prefer Board or Committee idea to invite people, not ask for volunteers to join
  3. Board meet selected people as candidates for Board in person
  4. Board approve list of people to be invited
  5. Current size of Board such that we could act as Nominating Committee
  6. Good chance for us to diversify Board
  7. Is the Board ok? Are we healthy enough to invite new people? If not, we are not okay to bring in new members
  8. We need a new perspective
  9. Jana had issues on Board when she joined years ago. Board membership offers practice opportunity on how to practice together with discord
  10. Board retreat originally planned to address the functioning of the Board
  11. Important how we present Board to prospective members
- Move consensus discussion to after the 8/22 retreat. Think about who we think might be good additions to the Board

## VII Insurance

- TC members are volunteers of MBZC. With that affirmed, the Board can move forward with the purchase of insurance.

## Motion

The MBZC Board bind and purchase Traveler's D&O and USLI Commercial Insurance policies at a cost not to exceed their last policy quotations by \$100.00 each.

Moved, seconded and passed

Bow out 12:18

Appreciations

Next meeting Board Retreat 8/22/21

Next Board meeting 9/12/21 10-noon