

MBZC Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes: 11/13/22 9:00 McGowan House

Present: Co-Chairs Susan Brodey and Susan Nine, Robert Reese, Diane Welles, Clara Nieto, Sara Hunsaker. All of whom bowed in at 9:10am.

Agenda Items Discussed:

1. Susan N made a motion to approve the minutes from last meeting. Susan B 2nd the motion; voted on and passed. We then discussed the position of secretary. No one from the board volunteered to become secretary. Robert offered to be secretary at the next business meeting, January 8, 2023. We discussed inviting someone outside the board to take notes based on a recording of the meeting. Clara suggested Elizabeth Orlando, who is receiving doan training and has been attending Tuesday eve regularly. Sara suggested we also invite Elizabeth Todd who had been invited to be on the board. Sonja Koehler was also mentioned. (There was hope being secretary would be a way for Sangha participants to gain insights and interest in joining the board.)

2. Money: Diane announced that we were Under the Budget for 2022 by \$23.00—so only over by \$7077. The Treasurer and Media Team Report on Square Space, Strike, PayPal fees (taken from online donations) was discussed. We decided to encourage the use of personal checks for large donations, letting people know the costs of on-line charges. Diane wished to find a way to reduce the costs/fees and Susan Nine wanted to understand the specifics of the various costs. This will possibly need to be discussed again as there wasn't sufficient information to satisfy the questions.

3. Susan B made a proposal in response to Sonja's suggestion to plan sangha building events. She suggested we forgo a Board meeting on December 11 and replace it with a Sangha work morning at McGowen Zendo --- Cleaning-up inside and outside our area from 10-12 with a potluck Sunday brunch at noon. Some member did not want to work on Sunday morning and others did. It was decided that the Co-Chair Susans could plan and lead this event. The next board meeting would be in January 8, 2023.

4. Teaching Council Report: Robert gave an update Identifying Dec 31 as a day Shogen will lead a reading of the Lotus Sutra that will begin at 10 am at McGZendo and last until finished. Robert said that he would lead a 1-month class on Soto Zen teachings that support our practice. He also reported that Shogen had contact with Sister Michelle at Villa Angelica and they had 3 nights available in Feb for a sesshin starting Thur. aft. Feb 16 through Sunday, Feb 19. Shogen may lead the Practice Period which will begin early February and end early April, 2023. There was discussion regarding the lack of input from the Teaching Council regarding the need for funds to help support a sesshin. No information had been given the budget committee – so there was a blank space in the budget.

Although we did not go over Covid protocols, it was brought to the attention of both the Board and the TC. Susan N sent all a copy of the Monterey County info. MBZC continues to have their original Covid protocols online.

5. Susan N said a sangha participant, volunteered to offer a gentle yoga class at McGHZendo with some or all proceeds coming to MBZC. The McGH committee had approved allowing use of our space and a use form was created. Susan sought to seek Board direction to approve a process that would allow these types of events to occur and possibly be calendared & advertised on our website when they confer financial/other benefit to MBZC. These types of classes/workshops potentially could be offered at a discount to members once our membership campaign gets going. Susan Nine will follow up with Brook Knowles, who made the offer, to establish a more specific plan as well and find the 'Use Plan' and check insurance.

6. There had been a request to move BBZ back to the Sanctuary. It seems BBZ folks had spoken too soon and a vote revealed most wanted to stay in McGZendo – at least for now. The Board wanted more information regarding rent and what spaces are available.

7. At the October meeting, we voted to move forward with membership. Diane wished not to ask for money right away. It was suggested that the Board members look into the membership practices of other small sanghas. Clara said she had liked Joe Hall's Pop-up Zendo website and his presentation of membership. She will send his link to us. The two co-chairs,

SusanB and Susan N, and Sara had met with Sonja Koehler, who began with idea gathering re Sangha and moved into a Membership discussion. So as not to conflict with the year-end Fund-Raising card Sonja suggested we begin with having events that bring our group together before introducing membership—which may become a reality in May/June.

8. After expressing gratitudes we bowed out at 11:10.
The next board meeting will be January 8, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Hunsaker, acting secretary.

Voted and Approved by MBZC Board February 7, 2023, Carl Cherry Center , 4-6pm.

Susan Nine had also included possible future Agenda topics:

Should we consider creating a facility acquisition fund with designated seed money from Katherine’s fund that could also become a legacy fund for Sangha members to donate to in their wills and trusts ?

Discussion of whether this is a good time to consider adding additional Board members or to wait until spring?

Recommendation to add a weekly evening meditation at McGHZendo.
(*Suggestion needs to go to the TC. Sara*)