

## MBZC Board February 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Taken by Board member Susan Nine

Board Members Present: Dina Stansbury, Diane Wells, Clara Nieto, Sara Hunsaker & Susan Nine

Absent Board Members: Robert Reese, Susan McDonald

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 A.M. by acting Co-Presidents Nieto & Stansbury. Because elected Secretary Stansbury is serving as Co-President for six months, a decision was made to rotate responsibility for taking minutes between board members, beginning with Susan Nine for this meeting, followed by Diane in March, Sara in April, and with Clara doing the last three months of Dina's term.

Appreciations were expressed by board members.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes from the January 9th Board meeting and approve agenda for this meeting.

Announcements:

- Sara described the purchased folding screen to be used at the McGowan house Zendo to screen the bathroom area from the Zendo and the use of Katherine Thanas' bookshelves in the "multi- purpose/sewing room" to create a library of zen-related books for reference and check out. It was noted that these bookcases should not interfere with other activities being conducted in the room as the shelves are narrow and don't take up much space.
- Support was given to use written resolution forms signed by the President/Co-Presidents & Secretary to document important decisions that necessitate some temporary deviation from bylaws or important policy adoption not otherwise incorporated within the bylaws as per Guy Riina's recommendation.
- Two such resolution forms were adopted to document the Board's initial decision to implement a three month period of Co-Presidency by Members Nieto and Nine, absent a willing candidate to assume the Presidency; and followed by a second resolution for each willing Board members in rotation, to serve as co- presidents for staggered six month terms until such time as a new President or Co-Presidents are elected for a longer term.

- Co-President Stansbury summarized her research of Robert's Rules that the two thirds requirement for passage of a motion under our bylaws is two thirds of those present, regardless of whether some abstain from voting.

#### Reports

- A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept Diane's Treasurer's Report. Diane also reported that Brown Bag Zen has been floundering due to a combination of factors including difficulties navigating the Zoom process and difficulty getting speakers. The numbers of participants has dropped considerably. Diane indicated that she and Guy, who have taken over responsibility for BBZ, believe it is unnecessary to continue to pay the rental cost for maintaining future access to the St. James sanctuary for BBZ's meetings, and alternatively they could become hybrid meetings ASAP using our Zendo space or other meeting rooms within McGowan House for those wishing to attend in person as soon as that option is made available. This led to a discussion of the need for specific protocols to be developed by the Teaching Council and published in advance on the MBZC website. Sara said she will bring this up at the upcoming meeting of the Teaching Council as a priority as they had not yet been informed about the BBZ recommendation until this meeting. A motion was made and seconded to notify St. James and the Teaching Council that MBZ would be holding its meetings via in person/Zoom within McGowan and BBZ will no longer be paying rent for the Sanctuary location once appropriate notification is given and protocols are adopted by the Teaching Council. Discussion: General support was expressed by Board Members for the plan to move BBZ to McGowan and for in-person/hybrid participation as soon as the details can be worked out. The motion carried unanimously. Thanks were expressed for Guy's and Diane's willingness to keep BBZ active during these difficult times.
- Sara gave a Teaching Council Report indicating that their energies have been focused on organizing the Practice Period events, but expressed an eagerness to work out details to enable resuming in-person/hybrid sitting and activities, noting the COVID situation has been an ever changing and moving target. Diane noted that some groups are now reopening including the Church adjacent to McGowan. Susan noted the need to publish decided upon protocols and have them known in advance of reopening to allow for public to make informed decisions about whether to attend in person or via Zoom.
- The need, for or lack thereof, for a Development Committee was discussed for fundraising events and Sangha Community building within MBZC as well as a means to promote awareness about MBZC within the larger Community. Diane made the recommendation that rather than creating a subcommittee, the Board could actively take on development as an agenda topic at each Board meeting and that board members could take responsibility for deciding on development related projects and

seeing them through to fruition. The sentiment was expressed that we should approach development as a joyful and fun process. These ideas were taken up enthusiastically by all present and with a song\* befitting the theme of our practice period. There was consensus that “development” would be agendaized for the March and future Board meetings.

- After a reminder that the next meeting will take place March 13, the first day of daylight savings time, Board Members bowed out with a recitation of the Three Refuges

\*You work and work for years and years, you're always on the go  
You never take a minute off, too busy makin' dough  
Someday you say, you'll have your fun, when you're a millionaire  
Imagine all the fun you'll have in your old rockin' chair  
Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think  
Enjoy yourself, while you're still in the pink  
The years go by, as quickly as a wink  
Enjoy yourself, enjoy yourself, it's later than you think  
You're gonna take that ocean trip, no matter come what may  
You've got your reservations made, but you just can't get away  
Next year for sure, you'll see the world, you'll really get around  
But how far can you travel when you're six feet underground?...and so on