

Santa Cruz Zen Center



Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

6:45 pm - 8:30 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/2951668406>

Zoom meeting ID 295 166 8406, password 753

Members

Name	Role	Name	Role
Mari Tustin	President	Neti Parekh (Absent)	Member-at-large
Sara McLellan	Vice-President	Rene Netter	Member-at-large
Ken Collins	Secretary	Gilbert Ramirez	Member-at-large
Yaro Jane Arny	Treasurer	Anita Elliot	Member-at-large
Sandra McCann	Member-at-large		
Rachel Grad	Member-at-large	Eugene Bush	Practice Leader
Will Peck (Absent)	Member-at-large	Patrick Teverbaugh	Practice Leader

Open with Zazen (5 minutes)

Updates

1) Community Comments

Welcomed Sandra McCann as newest elected Board Member.

2) Subcommittee Reports:

Membership:

Sara offered an update in the gathering of most Members responses in what contact information each Member was willing to share in the eventual Member directory being developed to allow communication within Sangha Members only. A spreadsheet has now been created. Sara, Christine (Sangha Member), and Sandra are now developing the directory which will first be presented to the Board next month for approval before sending it out to Members. Gene offered an example from Arcata Zen Center demonstrating the flexibility in usage such as the ease in the updating of information. As already mentioned above, it is to be sent to Members only, thus making it easier to communicate among Zen Center Members and to help avoid the cross communication of having to get permission when Members want to connect.

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda (cont)

Property Management:

See Regular Agenda 2 Below

Nomination:

Executive:

Finance:

We added one new member who joined us this month.

RBC Investment Account:

\$636,055.84

SC County Credit Union:

Savings: \$12,449.03

Checking: 25,293.59

Remodel: 130.31
\$37,872.93

Practice Leadership:

See Regular Agenda 3 Below

Regular Agenda

1. Approve February 2021 meeting minutes

Approved

2. Discussion of rodent control

*There's been a history of rodent issues in 113 and 119A for several years that has cost the Zen Center approx. \$1000 for each incident requested using at present a humane rodent removal service. In general, the strategy has been barriers with one way exits and cameras to track their entry points and movements which has not been fully successful. Various concerns and history were raised which included the compost bins that are placed next to 113, the releasing of the rodents when caught, as well as the residents doing their part in keeping the area clean around their rental space leading to the **Board Initial Proposal to 1) remove compost bins as soon as possible,***

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda (cont)

2) Inform all the residents on the property that we are no longer doing any composting onsite, and 3) no resident kitchen food compost in or outside the home to be collected or exchanged to an offsite use until further notice. It's the consensus of the Board to wait and see the impact of this initial proposal to reconsider personal compost exchange that would be collected by someone or to an offsite collection service. If necessary, stronger options to remove the rodents are being discussed if the Board's initial proposal does not abate or resolve the issue.

Approved

3. Practice Committee discussion/actions:

- a. Reverend Teverbaugh - Discussion of when, if, and how to reopen the zendo for outdoor and/or indoor seating, even at reduced rate of occupancy (update)
- b. Reverend Bush – discussion of indoor Zendo opening.

*Both Gene and Patrick discussed the potential of reopening on Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting in April for a few weeks as a trial period. It would involve allowing for a physical presence of 10 persons. (approx. 30% capacity of zazen style seating) with Zoom being continued (privacy considered for those who attend) and projected from the zendo. Overflow of persons during these days could sit socially distanced outside in the courtyard. Depending on the success of Tuesday and Thursday day sittings, consideration is being given in restarting the Wednesday evening program which due to its usually larger attendance would require making reservations that would not privilege those with a computer to reserve online, allowing those who prefer to call in by phone or leave a message. Sandra volunteered to help organize reservations and to contact persons to confirm their spots on Wednesday evenings. This is tentatively being considered in May or June and dependent around COVID recommendations. Zoom would also continue Wednesday evenings. All evening sittings would require staffing though chanting would still not be allowed at this time. Further in the future, the Zen Center has plans to be able to project visiting teachers onto a screen inside the zendo as well as continuing Zoom access. Gene and Renee to consider camera placement. Also, in consideration was to explore the idea that Gene had heard in exploring a filter that is used in a forced-air filter system which would make the air in the zendo safer. Anita volunteered to research this filter system with Mari (Property Manager). **Board Proposal to 1) Anita and Mari to look into the possibility of a cleaner air filtration system for***

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda (cont)

the zendo. 2) Sandra will work on the registration and phone system, 3) Gene and Patrick will work on positioning the camera setting in the zendo, 4) to have the Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) to modify ongoing changes and modifications along CDC guidelines around COVID to allow quicker decision making, And 5) included is the proposal is to have an in-person Workday on April 17, 2021 (masked and distanced) and to begin advertising the Workday on the website. Gene offered to lead the Workday event.

Approved

4. Review of Upcoming Agenda topics

Notes taken by Ken Collins (Board Secretary)