

Santa Cruz Zen Center



Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, April 20, 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	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	Member-at-large	Patrick Teverbaugh	Practice Leader

Open with Zazen (5 minutes)

Updates

1) Community Comments

2) **Subcommittee Reports:**

Membership:

See Regular Agenda 2 and 3 Below

Property Management:

Zendo heater recently serviced. Looked into adding a HEPA filter system, but the present heater is not compatible in setting up (to do so would require retrofitting). 4 newer filters were purchased with the highest grade available in securing a proper fit which offers similar qualities of filtration as a HEPA filter. Ken volunteered to change filters regularly as recommended. Thanks given out to Gene for repairing the Japanese-styled gate between 119 and the zendo. The small handle on the gate between the zendo and 113 was repaired. Liz had removed all the compost bins, and Renee did the trimming of the bamboo along

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda (cont)

*the same area. The resident in 113 has already stated that he has had no recent issues involving rodents since the changes. Hole behind the dryer in 119A was patched. Neti has made plans to return to Australia June 30, 2021 leaving 119 open for rent. Repairs are being planned for the month after with the goal of having 119 rented out by August 2021. New criteria in the renting of 119 would include no pets and limited gardening. A longtime Sangha member and applicant is presently being considered in renting out 119 with unanimous Board support. Various general concerns were discussed, as well as the possible challenges and scenarios around renting out 119. Mari to speak with the prospective Sangha member in the next several days. A background check is required by all residents on the Zen Center property. **Proposal made to offer potential longtime Sangha Member the opportunity to rent out 119, pending they get through the vetting process (which includes background checks), as well as their understanding of the guidelines in living on the Zen Center property. If for any reason this should not work, The Board will be notified and the renting of 119 will then go in the upcoming newsletter to be offered to the larger community:***

APPROVED

Nomination:

Executive:

Finance:

RBC Investment Account:

\$640,870.79

SC County Credit Union:

\$42,091.79

Practice Leadership:

See Regular Agenda 4 Below

Regular Agenda

1. Approve March 2021 meeting minutes

APPROVED

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda (cont)

2. Membership Committee to discuss membership directory:

*Sara congratulated Christine and Sandra on their effort in putting together the membership directory. Some added information and corrections are being finalized. The membership directory was screen shared for the Board to view and discuss. **Proposal made for the Board to approve the finalized membership directory and to begin distributing the directory to Sangha members:***

APPROVED

3. Membership committee report on updating pledges in June/July timeframe:

As stated in the bylaws, it is required to have an annual renewal of membership. Sustaining and contributing members who have been members for a full year by August 31st of each year are allowed to vote in the upcoming Board election, making the June/July pledges relevant to the bylaws and for establishing voting rights for the Board member election late in the year. The annual appeal is also sent out later in the year 6 months after the annual renewal pledge requests in June/July, allowing space in making requests for contributions and donations. The Treasurer (Yaro) stated that the reality is that members contribute in many ways, including fits and starts for some, and the possibility that people are giving what they can, making the tracking of members, their payments, and voting rights somewhat difficult to follow. At present, there is no minimum to be a member or a voting member as the membership amounts for contributing and sustaining members are suggested. The Board is recommending that we rephrase some of the wording during June/July pledges as more of being a reminder to members of their contributions and to help the Zen Center update their membership directory and information.

4. Practice Committee discussion/actions (Rev. Gene & Rev. Patrick):

Attempted the OWL setup (video camera) but found it too sound sensitive and visually not as appealing with its 360 degree view (fisheye view). It's requested that we continue with 2 computers in the zendo during sittings allowing privacy in one side of the room while allowing the Zoom Doan and Kokyo to see the room. Tuesday and Thursday hybrid sittings in the zendo have averaged 8-9 people (12 people is the max at this time). Plan to open Monday and Friday evenings in the zendo during the last week of May 2021, leaving Wednesdays open to Zoom only due to the larger attendance for the

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda (cont)

Dharma Talks (average 20-25 people). Consideration also being given that as we enter the yellow tier that we will have the Doan present in the zendo. It was also stated that CA Governor Newsom is expected to clear COVID restrictions in the middle of June 2021 as things appear to continue to improve. The Board will continue to follow COVID guidelines and will adjust accordingly as changes occur.

Notes taken by Ken Collins (Board Secretary)