

# Santa Cruz Zen Center



## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 2020  
6:45 pm - 8:30 pm

### Members

Name	Role	Name	Role
Anais Schenk	President	Will Peck	Member-at-large
Mari Tustin	Vice-President	Neti Parekh	Member-at-large
Ken Collins	Secretary	Rene Netter	Member-at-large
Yaro Jane Arny (Planned Absence)	Treasurer	Gilbert Ramirez	Member-at-large
Sara McLellan	Member-at-large	Eugene Bush	Practice Leader
Rachel Grad	Member-at-large		

*Open with Zazen (5 minutes)*

### Updates

1) Community Comments

2) **Subcommittee Reports:**

Membership: *No report at time.*

Property Management: *No report at time.*

Nomination: *No report at time.*

Executive: *No report at time.*

#### **Finance:**

SC Credit Union Checking: \$12,771.93

SCCU Savings: \$33,995.89

SCCU Remodel Account: \$476.11

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Total: \$609,193.11

## Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda (cont)

### **Subcommittee Reports Continued:**

#### **Practice Leadership:**

*Looked at the potential guest teachers and how to schedule them. Guest teachers are presently paid \$150 per event including sesshin. A Subcommittee consisting of Gene, Yaro, and Anais was created to discuss future payment adjustments for guest teachers who lead a sesshin which requires more planning and committed time involved. Board is in favor of establishing reasonable compensation for a guest teacher for the efforts required in the preplanning, organizing, and duties involved for longer events such as sesshins.*

#### **Regular Agenda**

1. Approve January meeting minutes. Attachment 1 (All)

#### **APPROVED**

2. Kokyo will be in town and in need of a place to live until April 14th. His contract currently provides a stipend through the end of March, but not into April. The Board will discuss how to handle rent and stipend for these first two weeks of April. (Anais)

**APPROVED for Kokyo and Shoho to continue staying in 113 until April 14th without being required to pay rent, but was NOT APPROVED in continuing to receive a stipend during this extended time period of stay.**

3. Does the Board wish to support the book project Dana and Gene are working on? If the Board can designate about \$1500 for printing and distribution that would help the project along. Later there will be about 35 books that can be sold at \$20 each and a handful of t-shirts that can also be sold to recoup some of this expense. (Gene)

*Book involves Katherine Thanas' students, friends, heirs, and disciples written perspectives on how Katherine influenced their lives. Profits after costs met will go to SCZC with the added hope of extending SCZC's presence and reach as a practicing community zen center. The Board also suggested in addition to the above request to offer help in paying for the mailing costs which were rounded and estimated at \$100. After calculating the exact costs, Gene requested \$1300 with the Board volunteering to pay for the additional mailing costs rounding the final amount requested to \$1400.*

## Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda (cont)

**APPROVED for \$1400 which includes mailing costs. The funds to pay for this approved amount will come from the remaining budget surplus.**

4. Continue discussion regarding SCZC affiliations with political movements. There has been some discussion around how sangha members represent SCZC in their activism around current events. What are the boundaries of what SCZC can support? And what do we consider SCZC support of an activism movement or activity? (Anais)

*SCZC receives a tax-exemption status (501C) that states in part that as an organization we can educate and advocate positions that align with our practice, but that we are not allowed to choose particular candidates. It was also mentioned that according to the Apartment and Homeowners associations (not applicable to the rules of 501C tax-exemption) that property owners are allowed to not permit any such signs on common property, but that residents were not prohibited to place signs in their windows. The agreed core issues which developed during this discussion involves the rights of private space versus common space (in particular, as a religious organization) as well as clarification of what is considered common versus private space for 119 School St. **The Board asked that in the future common space be explicitly called out in rental agreements with tenants.***

*The Board felt the need to continue this conversation to better clarify the laws while also maintaining the benefits of religious tax exemption status, as well as respecting the personal rights of residents living on such property. The Board in the meantime, with **open consensus**, agreed to remove any political candidate signs from the property, but to allow such signs to be viewed in their windows at this time until further exploration of the laws and guidelines were better clarified.*

5. Discuss whether SCZC should have an emergency response plan for different contexts including natural disasters, threats of violence, or health emergencies. Consider a phone tree and possible training for specific groups responsible for providing immediate response. (Anais)

### **Moved for a future agenda**

6. There has been interest in having a youth group at the SCZC. However, within our "Violence & Abuse Prevention Policy" it is stated that: Parents are informed that they are responsible for being in the presence of their own children (any one under the age of 18) when their children are on the premises of the Santa Cruz Zen Center." There has also been some concern that there may be an insurance

## **Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda (cont)**

issue related to unaccompanied minors. Cathy and Gene are looking into these issues to see if more youth participation can be facilitated on site. The Board can share ideas on how to address these potential hurdles to support this effort. (Gene)

**Moved for a future agenda**