

Santa Cruz Zen Center



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 25, 2019
6:35 pm - 8:30 pm

Members

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

Open with Zazen (5 minutes)

Updates

1) Community Comments

During the Japanese Cultural Fair the fence in front of the zendo was accidentally damaged by a vehicle. Carl, who initially built the fence, is currently repairing the fence in its current aesthetic. No insurance claim has been made. Carl requested that he would repair the fence without charge, wanting to avoid creating an insurance claim due to the woman's limited income that would also likely raise her auto insurance premium. The suggested approach by the Board is to give Carl a gift card for his services. Patrick had also contacted the woman who damaged the fence, requesting to her in considering making an affordable donation to the Santa Cruz Zen Center in lieu of damages.

2) Subcommittee Reports:

Finance:

RBC Bank: \$561,587.76

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SC Credit Union Balances:

Savings: \$10,696.99

Checking: \$28,707.24

Remodel: \$476.11

Membership:

Yaro, Will, and Anais met to discuss sending out a letter or email to help update membership which helps in determining future budget decisions, update dues to ensure voting status during the annual Board election, gather contact information while maintaining privacy etiquette, promote increase participation onto the new website, and to encourage transitioning towards making automatic membership payments from PayPal into using Stripe as the preferred payment service for membership dues.

Property Management: See Community Comments.

Nomination, Executive Practice and Leadership: No reports made at this time.

Regular Agenda

1. Approve May minutes. Attachment 1 (All)

May minutes were approved.

2. Approve revised web policy. The Website Management Policies and Procedures were approved by the Board earlier this year. They have been revised by the website team to include clarification of the difference between content contributors and editors as well as to incorporate a Website Committee. The Website Committee which consists of the webmaster, one other board member and the web designer, allows for decisions regarding major changes to the website to be made more on a consensus basis with board involvement.

Attachment 2 (Anais & Rachel)

Clarification was made regarding the makeup of the Website Committee as mentioned above towards having instead a Practice Leader liaison, Webmaster, and a Board Member as the Website Committee, with the Web Designer as an ongoing consultant instead. The Website Committee's function is advisory and is required to report to the Board for final

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decision-making. **Poll to approve the revised policies with this clarification was approved by the Board.**

3. Mid-year budget report. The treasurer will provide a mid-year budget report. Attachment 3 The report will be used to make the following decisions:

Yaro reviewed the report to the Board. (See Budget Report Attachment)

a. Practice Leader request to start paying the new Administrator in November of 2019. The Administrator would begin learning how to create and distribute the biannual Sangha Newsletter in November for publication in January. (Anais/Gene)

b. Request for \$200 for garden water feature. Attachment 4 (Neti)

Request for approval to pay the new Administrator was deferred until the Administration Committee (Gene & Anais) come back with a proposed dollar amount. However, it was confirmed that there is room in the budget to accommodate some payment.

Request from Board for garden water feature was approved. Money will come from Garden Budget. Will offered to loan a solar panel unit to help run the fountain. Power for the fountain is used intermittently to quietly agitate the water to avoid growth and mosquitoes.

4. Request to discuss outward and inward facing practice with sangha. A Board member has requested that we discuss how the practice leaders have been engaging the community. (Rene)

Discussed various ways to make Santa Cruz Zen Center more available to everyone and help them become more engaged within the Sangha. Gene mentioned a model created by the Practice Leadership that describes various stages of practice based on one's own determined level of experience and Buddhist understanding. It is strongly cautioned to note that the model is not to be perceived as goal-oriented practice as this runs counter to the fundamentals of Buddhist practice. It is a way to engage with a Practice Leader and/or group that best meets the needs of those seeking ways to deepen their practice.

Discussion was also directed towards outreach programs surrounding current issues such as immigrant children's detainment status and conditions which

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was one of many current issues discussed. Some caution was made from taking on political stances that could lead Santa Cruz Zen Center in losing its religious status (501C). This however does not deter us as a Sangha from trying to meet the needs of the community through other actions. Resources such as the Sotoshu Soto Zen Buddhist organization are available for guidance. Gene to meet with the Interfaith group to help find ways to work together and to further find productive ways to meet the needs of our community and at large. Gene also stated he would send further information regarding interfaith action and participation.

There was also discussion by the Board regarding how teachers are engaging with practitioners, are they doing so in a way that pulls them into the practice and "turns on a light bulb." This type of engagement and interaction is what helps attract people to a Zen Center. In order to determine whether practitioners at SCZC feel this need is being met maybe they should be surveyed. Discussion was stopped due to time but will continue at the next meeting of the Board.

Notes submitted by Ken Collins 06/30/2019