

MINUTES: BOARD MEETING

June 10, 2011

11:00am

Attending: Byakuren Judith Ragir, Carla Breunig, Amy Kirkpatrick, Nathan Thompson, Sosan Theresa Flynn, Rachel Vilsack, Karin Aguilar-San Juan, Elizabeth Wroblewski, Angus MacDonald

Absent: Carol Iwata

Nathan called the meeting to order

AGENDA

I. TEACHER RYO COUNCIL RECAP

5 board members were at the Teacher Ryo Council and reported that the response to the Ryo and multi-teacher model was very positive.

One comment that came up during the Council was a suggestion to not publicize who is giving the Dharma talk – as a way to encourage people to “just show up” and not have preferences. Sosan recommended keeping the announced speakers as we have been doing. We could encourage this devotion through conversations. Byakuren mentioned that Thich Nhat Hanh describes sangha as being “committed ordinary people.” People are encouraged to come, and receive what happens. Devotion, commitment and non-preference is a teaching, something members of the sangha grow into. Maybe we need to teach this more.

Byakuren said this devotion to community is critical to the visioning process that is coming up. If you are a sangha member, you need to come — you need to be involved in conversations that keep you in harmony with the sangha. We really need to get this across. Need to have people moving as a group. She became aware of that after last winter’s changes: the board and staff thought about the multi-teacher model for 2-3 months, then they made the decision and told the sangha. But, the sangha didn’t have the same 2-3 month preparation time. Now she is seeing a tidal wave of responses as people process this change. How can we get “buy in” from the sangha early on?

Angus felt some of this could be accomplished through improved communication. He wished the June bulletin had the July Visioning Council prominently listed, so people could plan ahead. Can the fall Hokioji sesshin get in the bulletin now? Maybe put the full year calendar for sesshins in the bulletin since people need a lot of advance notice to open up time for sesshins.

Sosan suggested that the Teacher Ryo could discuss what is highlighted in each bulletin.

II. UPDATE ON MARRIAGE AMENDMENT WORK

Carla said that Monday night, 7 – 9pm, July 11, Grant Stevenson and Alan Williams will be co-facilitating a training on how to have a friendly conversation about the Marriage Amendment. Currently 18 are signed up from a number of congregations, about half are from Clouds.

The campaign is trying to reach out to new people. There will be a big gathering at Mount Zion with a goal of bring in 250 new people from Saint Paul. Over all the campaign is spreading out with lots of neighborhood organizing. Clergy gathered this past week and will prepare a statement as a faith community.

III. MID-YEAR FINANCIALS AND EXEC. DIRECTOR CHECK-IN

EAST HALL: rent through the end of the year is covered.

SPRING APPEAL:

- Direct donations were \$17,485 and raffle brought in \$3,215, for a total of \$20,700.
- Spring appeal last year was \$24,200, but that included a silent auction which was much more work. Usually the spring appeal brings in \$20,000.
- Sosan believes the raffle could bring in twice as much next year, a lot was learned this year. And maybe next year it will be an online “cyber” auction.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership is \$2000 above budget — we had more new people become members than anticipated. This is really positive.

OTHER INCOME: Interest is up \$1500.

EXPENSE:

- Admin/technology is over budget by \$1500 due to the website being hacked, Clouds had to hire an outside resource to fix the issues.
- Payroll is likely to make budget by end of year. There’s more variation than previous year due to the switch to hourly pay.

MID-YEAR SUMMARY: The financial reports for January through May are complete and we are looking good so far. Last year's results for January through May showed a deficit of \$13,400. This year, we have a deficit of \$1,350. And since our year-to-date budget calls for a deficit of \$536, we are only \$821 off budget. Because more of our income comes in the last quarter of the year, it’s typical for us to show a deficit until quite late in the year. We are on track for meeting our 2012 budget.

- See attached documents for Summary Budget Performance and Profit & Loss Year Comparison

TIME TRACKING: Sosan kept track of her hours this past quarter to see how closely it matched the 54% admin/46% teacher split designated in the new Ryo structure. She found actual time

came in as 70% admin and 30% teacher; but since the month of May was the big spring appeal push, with many admin. duties she was not surprised by the higher admin. numbers.

Sosan broke down upcoming projects into admin and teacher projects, and the majority fall into the admin. category. Sosan is looking for an intern or assistant to help with admin. And is hoping a sangha member steps forward to coordinate volunteer activities.

IV. SPACE/VISION

A council on Visioning is coming up July 15. It's important for board members to attend, and to engage the sangha and get as many people as possible involved in the dialogue on July 15.

Sosan brought up the statistic that 75% of the membership attends Clouds only on Sunday mornings. For them the existing space works just fine. Noise issues and parking are not currently a problem on Sunday mornings. 25% of the membership attends classes and sesshins, for them the space is not ideal. She gave Fish's class as an example, the 3-week class was bothered by loud music from the Black Dog during every class session, and this was for a group of people new to meditation.

Karin mentioned that a democratic model might suggest that we're fine with 75% of the sangha being happy. But she notes that the leadership of the sangha resides in the 25%, and the leadership group needs to be nurtured. The majority need to be made aware of the importance of the minority group.

Byakuren agreed, and suggested that we need to spend time educating the larger community about the way the smaller group nurtures the larger group. She wished the small group regularly attended on Sundays so that they would be a more visible part of the sangha.

- Byakuren strongly believes that sesshins are the spiritual groundwork for the sangha.
- It's important to get the word out to the 25% to attend the July 15 meeting.
- The July 15 meeting meeting also needs to look at a vision that works with the multi-teacher model. A vision that the sangha can get behind and support.
- Byakuren recommends catching the Sangha up prior to the July 15 meeting. Write up some sort of sheet that summarizes where we are.

Angus suggested that the schism is not as pronounced as the 75/25 numbers seem to show. We are a sangha of converts, everyone stepped over some threshold to get here. If a person is on a developmental trajectory, he/she could see the need to support others.

Karin wondered what sort of tidal wave of feedback might come after the July 15 meeting. Is there a way to be ready for that? Byakuren suggested maybe the Annual Meeting could be a place for follow-up.

Carla suggested walking tours as a way to help people imagine the future of the neighborhood, possibly after Sunday service. Everyone thought that was a good idea and she offered to get those set up.

SAINTS STADIUM UPDATE:

Carla met with Julian Loscalzo, the lobbyist for the Saints, these notes come from their conversation:

- Port Authority is in the process of buying the Diamond Products/Gillette warehouse and land. This will be used as part of a land-swap deal with the Saints for the Midway Stadium property. If Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) funding comes through (\$27 million from the City, \$10 million from the Saints) the Saints would develop the Diamond Products/Gillette property with the help of the city. An Environmental Assessment worksheet will need to be done first and that will take 9-12 months.
- The Saints season will be mid May through Labor Day. 6000 – 7000 visitors per game. Tailgating under the Lafayette bridge. Games are weekday evenings and weekends starting at 7:05 pm with some afternoon games at 1:05pm.
- Julian suggested that Clouds connect with other neighborhood businesses around parking concerns. The thought being that there's more clout if it's a bigger voice. But he suggested that Clouds' needs could be rather unique. He suggested we connect with Books for Africa, Pat Pelonski.
- Ramsey county owns land along Kellogg., He suggested Clouds speaks with Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County commissioner (assistant: Ken Iosa) and Dave Thune, St. Paul City Council (Pat Lindren, legislative aide).
- Next phase will be community process around parking, noise and lights. He recommended Clouds be part of that dialogue.
- And idea for a new Cloud space: City was selling off rec centers. See if any of those are left.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

Submitted by: Amy Kirkpatrick

IMPORTANT SANGHA EVENT:

July 15, 10:45 – Noon

Visioning Council

NEXT BOARD MEETING:
July 22, 11:00 – 1:00

Attachment: May Financial Statement

2012 May Financial Statement — Sosan's report to the Board

	Jan - May 12	Year To Date Budget	\$ Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Contributions				
Dana	3,419	2,850	569	6,450
Donations for East Hall	6,000	8,000	(2,000)	11,000
Fall Appeal	300	200	100	16,000
Membership	22,906	20,800	2,106	73,000
Spring Appeal	15,875	20,000	(4,125)	24,200
Total Contributions	48,501	51,850	(3,349)	130,650
Programs				
Books & Materials Contributions	295	1,500	(1,205)	3,600
Youth Practice	2,162	953	1,209	4,953
Classes	9,764	11,300	(1,536)	21,000
Guest Teacher Events	1,264	1,700	(436)	8,400
Ministerial Services	658	500	158	1,200
Sesshins	1,979	2,130	(152)	8,777
Zen Dog	1,400	1,000	400	2,400
Total Program Income	17,521	19,083	(1,562)	50,330
Other Income	3,564	1,747	1,817	4,335
Special Projects	0	0	0	0
Total Income	69,586	72,680	(3,094)	185,315
Expense				
Administrative Expense	7,074	5,650	1,424	12,489
Communications	2,481	2,779	(299)	7,970
Facilities	18,322	17,962	360	43,109
Guiding Teacher Expense Account	0	0	0	0
Payroll Expenses	39,276	40,750	(1,474)	98,920
Program Expense	3,470	5,825	(2,355)	16,800
Resource Development Expense	321	250	71	1,150
Total Expense	70,943	73,216	(2,273)	180,438
Net Income (Loss)	(1,358)	(536)	(821)	4,877

