

## **Clouds in Water Zen Center**

### **January Board Meeting**

**January 6, 2013**

Attending: Kurt Errickson, Sosan Theresa Flynn, Carol Iwata, Byakuren Judith Ragir, Nathan Thompson, Rachel Vilsack, Elizabeth Wroblewski

Absent: Karin Aguilar-San Juan, Carla Breunig, Angus MacDonald

**Nathan called the meeting to order at 11:50 AM.**

### **AGENDA**

#### **I. December 2012 Board Meeting Minutes**

**Board approved the December 2012 board minutes.**

#### **II. 2013 Budget**

Sosan shared the 2013 draft budget/2012 final forecast and explained some key components (as highlighted in the comment boxes in the forecast).

Board discussed the "Interest" income forecast/budget and the suggestion that Sam Murphy be annually consulted.

Guest teacher income/expense has been moved out of ordinary income/expenses and moved to

a separate category.

Byakuren mentioned the financial workshops offered by Lynn Twist and recommended that we look into sending several board members.

Board discussion around class catalogues; did we think this impacted class attendance? Is there a benefit to having a paper catalogue? Sosan showed a tri-fold brochure (from another local Zen center) which advertised their general services, making it less time-sensitive. Would we like to consider something similar? Advertising budget will be increased to include more targeted flyering.

Byakuren stated that we should create a 2013 intention to focus our visibility, possibly as a retreat topic.

Board discussed an interest in learning more about how we can better promote Clouds in Water on social media sites. [Discussion tabled for a future meeting. Nathan would like to add this topic to the March agenda.]

Board discussed cost of living and merit pay increases for staff positions.

Nathan and Elizabeth expressed that payroll increases feel like they are coming from a expansive or stable monetary/budgetary place.

Merit increases in pay require some additional discussions and are contingent on other factors, like performance reviews and budgetary constraints.

Byakuren questioned the budget for sesshin food supplies and asked that the staff look into the issue of per diem food costs and if that amount is accurate and/or reflective of what individuals actually spend on food.

Byakuren suggested that we continue our outreach efforts for the sesshin with Reb Anderson in May to get the 35 participants needed. Amy Horne will be sending information to other sanghas in the Midwest region.

New income and expense figures were provided for the Fleet Maull event. Income and expense will be budgeted for 50 workshop participants.

Nathan indicated that he will do some research on social fundraising platforms.

Sosan wondered if we should set a greater intention of focusing on membership. We have gotten away from announcing membership on Sunday, for instance.

Board discussed how we can package/sell online classes. [Discussion tabled for a future meeting.]

**Board approved amended 2013 budget.**

**Nathan called the meeting closed at 2:03 PM.**

Board minutes submitted by Rachel Vilsack.