

**Clouds in Water Zen Center
May Board Meeting**

May 19, 2013

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

Absent: Karin Aguilar-San Juan, Kurt Errickson, Angus MacDonald

Guests: Kyoku Tracey Walen, Alan Williams

Nathan called the meeting to order at 11:31 AM

AGENDA

I. Marriage Equality Amendment

Carol, Alan and Carla offered a thank you to the Board for their support of marriage equality.

The Board thanked them for their efforts as well, and noted it was a positive learning experience to extend Clouds' public support of a human rights issue.

II. Spring Appeal Update

Sosan provided an update of the spring appeal, which is current at \$11,000, including the \$5,000 match. (The goal is \$16,000 by May 31st.)

Sosan will produce a list of potential donors for Board members to call and announcements will be made at the upcoming Sunday morning services.

The deadline for the Spring Appeal will be extended until June 9.

III. Parking Meeting Update

Carol provided an update on a meeting that she and Kyoku attended between Northern Warehouse tenants and the City of St. Paul.

The Board discussed what level of energy we should put into the parking issue and what role Art Space should play in this discussion.

Sosan agreed to contact Art Space and ask them to be more proactive about addressing parking issues.

IV. Response to the Vision Intention to Move

Nathan mentioned some conversations he had with sangha members regarding the email sent announcing our intention to move based on our vision, finances and sangha energy.

The Board discussed collaboration possibility with MZMC and the similarities and differences between our two sanghas.

Sosan will plan to set-up a meeting with MZMC leadership. Sosan, Nathan and Carol will represent Clouds at this meeting.

Elizabeth highlighted her brief presentation last Sunday announcing our vision and intention to move.

Byakuren mentioned that we should target the lay training and post-Jukai group to attend the council practice on space on June 9.

Carol and Carla will work on getting the vision statements printed and posted.

Carla suggested creating an email that could be used for sangha members who see or know about properties/building that we might want to consider.

V. Planning for Space Council Practice (June 9)

Byakuren will give the dharma talk on June 9.

Nathan will brief the sangha on our vision process and the intention we've put forth to move.

Sosan mentioned we may not hold this in the classical council practice sense, but have a more open-ended discussion in the spirit of a council practice.

Rachel will coordinate food to serve during the break.

VI. Other Business

Carla presented a draft survey to determine sangha support, which will be modified and shared after the June 9th council practice.

Byakuren requested that we ask a few questions (via survey) right after the June 9 council practice to ask: 1) are you excited about this vision? and 2) do you see yourself (and your issues) in this vision?

Rachel shared space specification document (and visual word cloud) based on April retreat. (See Attachment A.)

Nathan called the meeting closed at 1:39 PM.

Board minutes submitted by Rachel Vilsack.

Attachment A.

May 19, 2013

Review of Space Specifications

Internal

- Zendo (current size - 1,584 square feet - or larger) and/or Buddha hall
- Dokusan room(s)
- Hardwood floors
- High ceilings
- Large community room/Informal gathering space
- Staff offices (with windows)
- Kitchen with oven
- Room for classes and Youth practice/study rooms/breakout rooms
- Library
- Storage space
- Accessible bathrooms/shower facilities
- Cubbies/lockers
- Washer/dryer
- Baby changing area/nursing area
- Limited levels/stairs or elevator
- Support for electronics (audio, visual, wifi, posting talks on web and social media)
- Plants/flowers
- Bulletin boards and other visual resources
- Natural light
- Good air circulation

External

- Green, environmentally friendly, low impact
- Urban environment
- Residential
- Nearby parking (accessible, free or inexpensive)
- Accessible by bikes, cars, public transportation and pedestrians
- Outdoor space
- Plants/flowers
- Playground

Feeling

- Quiet
- Calm, stillness
- Safe, security
- Open, expansive
- Bright
- Lightness
- Versatility
- Beauty
- Muted colors

Collaboration

- Share all or some space with another Zen center
- Outreach to other Buddhist community to partner
- Rooms that could be rented or used by other groups

