Zen Community of Oregon Board Meeting

Zoom 2-4pm

March 27, 2022

Minutes prepared by Ko’un Kassie Fisk

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| **ZCO board members attendance** | **Sangha attendance** |
| * Kodo Nancy Conover (President) * Chozen Bays,Roshi (Director) | * Hogen Bays Roshi * Fuho |
| * Jomon Laura Martin (Director) | * Brad Biddle |
| * Gyokan Brent Carmer (Director) | * Shokan |
| * Kyoko Nancy Whitaker-Emrich (Director) | * Myoyo Voekel |
| * Shikaku Jim Hornor (Director) |  |
| * Kennyo Patrick Dunn (Director) |  |
| * Shonin Darah Ashton (Treasurer) |  |
| * Bansho Patrick Green (Administrator) * Ko’un Kassie Fisk (Secretary) |  |

1. **Welcome** – Pema Chodron reading - Times of War
2. **Budget** – Bansho

No significant issues at this early stage of the year. We are ahead of budget at 3 months into 2022

1. **Backpack Program** – Nan

* ZCO has participated in the [Portland Backpack Program](https://www.portlandbackpack.com/) for several year. Portland backpack services children who are at risk of hunger by providing food sacks for weekend days when food scarcity is higher. This program benefits 8 elementary schools within the NE Portland area.
* ZCO typically contributes $300 and Nan has requested a contribution this year of $500.00.

**Decision:** The board unanimously agreed to contribute $500.

1. **Support of Ukraine** – Nan

* A White Plum Sangha in Poland sent an appeal for financial assistance to bring medical aide and help for people crossing the border. Chozen shared that 1 in 30 people from the Ukraine are refugees. This Sangha specifically helps children through this difficult situation.
* The request is to donate money to this cause with individual Sangha members’ donations and ZCO contribution. Nan’s request to the board is for ZCO to donate $1,500.00 and that we reach out to Sangha members for individual contribution. Bansho added that an anonymous Sangha member will match up to $5,000.00 in donations.

**Decision:** The board agreed to donate $1,500.00 and request separate donations from the Sangha.

**Action Items**

* Nan will send the Sangha appeal letter to the board as well as content for communication to the Sangha.
* Myoyu, Bansho and Kennyo will create the communication for outreach to the Sangha asking for donations with a 10-day turnaround in order to instill enthusiasm.

1. **Buddhist Healthy Boundaries Proposal** – Bansho and Brad Biddle

This is a proposal to provide professional ethics training to Buddhist leaders. This course was previously provided by the Faith/Trust Institute and will no longer be offered. This request is to start up and offer the ethics course.

* The startup cost, based on the Faith/Trust Int. expectation is $18,000.00. Already contributions of $8,500.00 have been made to support this worthy cause.
* This would require an Administrator position part-time and qualified candidates have already shown interest.
* Brad Biddle [biddle.law](https://biddle.law/team) spoke about the legal aspects and next steps. Brad has graciously offered his legal counsel pro-bono. Brad will have more time to devote to this project while he is at the monastery until April 17th, 2022 although can continue his services following this date.

**Decision:** The board voted and agreed to move forward with Option L – single member LLC per recommendation of counsel.

1. **Zen Community of Oregon Annual Meeting** – Kodo

The ZCO annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday April 24, 2022 3:30-5:30pm at Heart of Wisdom and will be offered in person and Zoom.

* Kennyo and Jomon’s director positions are complete and will need to be replaced. One position will be replaced via nomination and another will be assigned by Chozen.
* The nominating committee for 2022 (Jomon, Nan, Kennyo, LoriAnn Jikai , Chorin, Soren and Fuho – alternate) have met and will be reaching out to potential nominees.

**Action Items**

* Kennyo, Kyoko and Hogen will assist Kodo with planning the annual meeting.
* The nomination committee will reach out to the potential nominees about joining the board.

1. **Heart of Wisdom** – Gyokan

* We have installed a large TV
* We are open with masks optional

1. **Great Vow** – Myoyu

* Currently 24 people, and spring practice will include 3-4 new residents
* The upcoming retreats have good attendance
* We may need a new roof over the gym and will need to get a professional opinion.

1. **Mountain Seat Ceremony**

* The ceremony of Ascending Jizo Mountain is June 25 – 26, 2022.
* Plans continue for the event.
* Shonin and Diane Brush are coordinating the sewing of Chozen’s ceremonial Kesa. During April, people will complete the 50 panels with the rain stitch then in May everything will be sewn together.

1. **Reopening** (all subject to change) – Shokan and Fuho

* Retreats require COVID testing when attendees arrive
* Residents no longer require PCR testing
* Sunday attendees at Great Vow are asked to test themselves
* Heart of Wisdom is masks optional, although many continue to wear masks.

**Upcoming Board Meetings**

* Sun April 24 annual meeting 3:30-5:30pm In Person and Virtual
* Sun July 10 2-4pm
* Sat, Sept 10 board meeting + retreat
* Sun Nov 6 2-4pm

*Meeting minutes were approved via email April 4, 2022 with a simple majority from Nan, Kodo, Jomon, Shikaku and Kennyo*