

Zen Community of Oregon Board of Directors Meeting

Great Vow Monastery and Via Zoom

February 4, 2024 2:00-4:00 PM

Minutes prepared by Senkei

Board approved on May 5, 2024

Attendance

ZCO Director and Officers:

- Nancy Kodo Conover (President & Director)
- Maureen Myosho Milton (Director)
- Adam Eisan Herr (Director) (via Zoom)
- Kassie Ko'un Fisk (Director) (via Zoom)
- Darah Shonin Ashton (Director & Treasurer)
- Patrick Bansho Green (Administrator)
- Brad Senkei Biddle (Secretary)

Sangha:

- Jomon
- Scott
- Onkatsu
- Kosho
- Myoyu
- Myo'On
- Ansui
- Onshin
- Shinzan
- Dojun
- Soshin
- Myoyu
- Myo'On
- Dainen
- Soren

1. Call to Order

Kodo opened the meeting with a short meditation and a reading by Larry Ward on the topic of Belonging. She called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present.

2. Secretary report / administrative items

- Senkei reported that Brent Gyokan Carmer communicated his resignation from the Board to Kodo. Kodo proposed that Darah Shonin Ashton fill the vacancy for the remainder of Gyokan's term, which ends on May 4, 2024. On February 1, 2024 Senkei coordinated an email vote on this proposal, and the remaining directors unanimously agreed in written replies. Accordingly Shonin is serving as a director, in addition to her ongoing role as treasurer, effective as of that date, with her term ending on May 4, 2024.
- The Directors approved the minutes from the meeting of the Board of Directors held on October 29, 2023.

3. Membership

Onkatsu provided a membership update. Highlights included:

- A description of a new logo
- Membership revenue projected to be \$135,000 in 2024
- Closed 2023 with 302 members, with 15 new members in January
- A description of communications made to new members

A question was raised about Sangha Hosts; Onkatsu indicated that there had not been much interest in the role.

4. Development

Myo-On (Bee) reported on the 2023 Annual Fund Campaign in her role as Development Chair. She summarized the transition that ZCO has made from an annual fundraiser to an annual fund campaign. She noted that the AF goal has been raised to \$150,000 from \$100,000, taking into account the new mortgage for the Sirmio property. She reported that the fund totaled \$181,000 for 2023, reflecting \$132,000 raised directly through the fund efforts plus two bequests. She expressed appreciation to the “amazing volunteers” working on the AF campaign.

5. Budget

Shonin presented the 2024 budget on behalf of the Finance Committee. Some adjustments to the proposed budget were made in the course of discussion. Salaries was noted as an item that will require a future update. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2024 budget as presented.

6. Great Vow update.

Myoyu reported on various GVM-related matters. Topics included: new shuso and new tenzo, Shokan's departure, forest restoration, care for the core property, Onshin's planned travel to Japan, Dojun's planned ordination, Jeff Whittaker's amazing support, great sesshin support from Dharma Holders and outside people, successful retreats.

7. Heart of Wisdom and Trillium House update.

Kosho reported on various HoW- and Trillium House-related matters. Topics included: full zendo for zazenkai and daylong sits, solid service positions, some evening sits very full, lots of new people, morning TH sit has 10-15 people every day, food drive raised \$700 plus food, Kodo's peace vigil, Chant for Peace planned for this summer, guest speakers planned. .

8. Bylaws update.

Senkei presented slides and a draft markup to the Bylaws. Discussion will continue.

9. Green burial.

Myo-On presented slides and provided an update on her plan for green burial on the Great Vow property. Discussion will continue.

10. Trillium House.

Kodo presented some history of Trillium House and discussed the possibility of making Trillium House an official ZCO program. Discussion will continue.

11. Closure.

The meeting closed at 4:20pm with a chant.