

Meeting of the Sangha  
Blue Heron Zen Community  
Date: 12-07-2025

**Opening**

**Minutes from Previous Meeting**

**Invitation for Discussion Items**

**Report of the Guiding Teacher**

**Review of Board Activity / Reports / Project Updates**

• **Abbot's Summary**

- Two residents moved out of our building this year. We currently have three residents in the building, with a potential for two more suitable candidates;
- Board activity since our last Sangha meeting in April:
  - In May the board voted *against* remodeling the basement kitchen for the purpose of meal preparation for retreats. In October, however, the board voted to fund a trial lunch meal service for in-person participants at the December retreat by serving prepared food from a local restaurant;
  - There's still a plan to install a second camera in the Dharma room. Progress has been slowed because the electrician we ordinarily use has been unable to complete some of the work;
  - The wooden railings on the back porch and on the exterior stairway leading to/from the Dharma room will soon be replaced, thanks in large part to a generous anonymous donation. Greg Eisen is arranging for that work to be completed;
  - Last month the board approved subscribing to a mass texting service. The cost is just \$7.00 per month, and allows us to send urgent texts to members for whom we have a cell number. This service might be employed, for example, in the case of in-person practice being abruptly cancelled, say in the case of icy streets around the building. If we don't have a cell number for you, and you'd like us to be able to contact you via cell, please let me know.
- Blue Heron co-founder and emeritus teacher Jeff Tipp JDPSN passed away on July 31st. A 49-day ceremony was held for Jeff PSN at Blue heron on September 18th;
- Resident Gerald Seminatore has taken the lead on organizing extended in-person sitting meditation periods at Blue Heron, which take place every second Saturday from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM;
- Member Rich Hill has placed a food collection box on the back porch. Rich will deliver all donated food to the University District Food Bank. Feel free to place non-perishable food items in the box at any time;
- There's a potluck and sandwich-making event coming up this week on Friday the 12th. Member Meg Critchlow is organizing this event;
- Kyol Che 2026 begins in the latter part of January. Details will be published next month.

- **Head Dharma Teacher's Report**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Committee Reports**
  - **Building and Grounds Committee - Paul**
    - In May, member Roslynde Ruch sent a detailed landscaping plan to the board. This outstanding and professional-quality plan can be used to guide how we landscape our property. I envision forming a working group to assist with transforming the grounds, and I hope that work can begin some time in the first half of 2026.
  - **Finance Committee - Greg, Rebecca, John**
  - **Marketing Committee - Inactive**
  - **Health and Wellness Committee - Inactive**

### **Board Nominations / Re-Nominations / Elections**

- Rebecca Hollenbeck is stepping down from the board at the end of this year. Rebecca has done a superior job in her role as assistant treasurer, and as the registrar for retreats. She's kindly agreed to continue as registrar for Kyol Che next year, but a replacement will have to be found for retreats taking place after Kyol Che. Last month the board agreed to recommend to the community that Rebecca's board position remain vacant at this time. Moving forward, then, the number of board members would be reduced from nine to eight;
- The two-year at-large terms for board members Greg Eisen, who is our Treasurer, and Jordan Singer, who is our building maintenance advisor, will expire at the end of the month. Both Greg and Jordan have agreed to serve on the board for another two years, if nominated and approved by the Sangha today:
  - Let's consider Greg and Jordan separately for another two-year term each on the Blue Heron board.

### **Unfinished and New Business**

### **Adjournment**