

April 6th, 2025, Sangha Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Numerous members of the Sangha

New Topics for Discussion:

Meal preparation at the Zen Center.

Guiding Teacher Update:

My impression from a teaching POV is that things are going very well. Kyol Che has been well attended, and the talks have been good. The Dharma dialogues have really come alive. Weekday practices on Wednesday and Friday are appreciated.

Abbot's Update:

We have 5 rooms and 5 residents.

Spring is here and there is more yard work on the horizon.

Last retreat a retreatant developed Covid symptoms when they went home Friday and then tested positive. We stopped in-person meeting for 10 days. We did not hear about anyone else becoming ill.

Four board meetings per year. In the November meeting we will discuss board meeting membership.

Second camera...all the equipment is purchased. Next board meeting will discuss hiring an electrician or doing it ourselves.

We eliminated the land line. Google voice is an alternative that can be forwarded to any number desired.

We are paying down extra principle on the mortgage providing we have a certain amount of money in our checking account.

HDT Update:

Kyol Che ending in a few weeks. Then we'll resume our normal Sunday practice schedule.

We plan some additional focus on forms. Nothing scheduled yet. No precepts ceremony scheduled at this time...if someone is interested we recommend discussing it with a teacher during a Dharma dialogue. Precepts are moral/ethical guidelines and demonstrate your commitment to Buddhist practice in a public ceremony. We usually have one a year. We like students to be around a while before taking them, attend some retreats, etc. We like to have precept ceremonies when we have a few people interested.

There was a recommendation to bring back an occasional ½-day sit.

Treasurers Report:

Our income is exceeding our expenses. Special thanks to the 57 members who contribute monthly. We just refinanced at 7+%. We sell any stocks that are gifted to us right away so the current market turmoil isn't hurting us. We have a good reserve. We have never been in the red in over 25 years.

Roof and boiler are two big expenses that will be coming up.

Previous Sangha Minutes:

One spelling change page 2: Tang instead of Tong.

Beth makes motion to approve 12/8 minutes, Sahara seconds, no further discussion, minutes approved.

Committees:

Building and grounds. Haven't met for a while. There is no chair...Paul is the spokesperson. Whoever shows up is on in. We installed trees per requirement with the city.

Finance committee:

We 100k in money market at about 4.3% so no stock market exposure risk.

Beneficial Bank gave us a mortgage after about 7 years of being funded by a couple of generous members.

Unfinished Business:

What would we be required to resume formal meal service during retreats? We discontinued our formal meals after COVID after which we introduced a reduced retreat schedule. King County Food Safety office says we need a permit which requires a commercial kitchen which would require a major remodel. This is just informational at this time...the board needs to deliberate on this.

New Business:

What do we do when inclement weather strikes? The residents are often in the position to put a notice on the door that practice was canceled but people tend to show up anyway. What would be the best way to get closure information out? Email, text or on website banner is recommended. Are people looking for one-way or two-way communication? One-way seems adequate.

Adjourned