

## December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Sangha Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Numerous members of the Sangha

**New Topics for Discussion:** Newsletter

Draft minutes from the previous Sangha meeting 4/6/25 were approved with no changes by unanimous vote.

**Guiding Teacher Update:**

Teaching activities are generally going well. We are considering adding Dharma Dialogues during Wednesday and Friday practices on a monthly basis.

Paul, PNS will be lead teacher for our upcoming Kyol Che.

An update on Chris Chapman, PSN: Last spring, he intended to write something for the newsletter regarding his plans but never did. He does not plan to return to his role at BHZC. He has started an online practice group for the tech community.

**Abbot's Update:**

We now have three residents in the house with the departure of Andrew and Trevor.

At the board meeting in May, we voted against remodeling the kitchen to be compliant with regulations for food preparation for retreat meals. We had a trial of lunch service at the December retreat using food prepared for us at Sunlight Café and will be reviewing surveys completed by those who participated in the meal in order to make a decision about doing that for retreat meals in the future.

Facilities issues include plans to install a second camera in the Dharma Room and replacing the railing in the back of the house paid for by an anonymous donation.

We will be subscribing to a mass texting service to use in cases such as weather or illness that would lead to last-minute cancellation of practice, and we will have a process for updating contact information.

We held a 49 day ceremony on 9/18/25 for Jeff Tipp, JDPSN who died 7/31/25.

Gerald has been leading an extended sitting period on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays.

Rich Hill has provided a food donation box for University District Food Bank.

There will be potluck on 12/12/25 6-8 PM along with a sandwich making activity to provide food for the unhoused organized by Meg.

**Head Dharma Teacher Update:**

The 2026 events calendar is mostly complete including dates for 7 retreats and 2 ceremonies. Plans are developing for the coming months include forms instruction to be integrated with practice periods, and deciding on a date for a precepts ceremony.

### **Treasurers Report:**

We continue to have a healthy financial situation. Our main sources of income are membership contributions from 60 paying members, resident fees, retreat fees, and other donations. Regular expenses include utilities and teacher stipends (based on calculation of travel expenses, less than \$100 a month) and dana. We have reserves for anticipated and unexpected facility expenses such as a recent \$1,200 plumbing issue and future needs for roof replacement, painting, and heating system upgrade. Detailed figures provided in separate Treasurer's Report.

### **Committees:**

**Building and grounds.** (Paul) - No recent committee meetings. Roslynde Ruch created a landscape plan for us, and we need to hold a workshop meeting for implementation planning.

**Finance** (Greg) – We continue to hold reserves in safe high-interest money market accounts. We have received stock donations, and when that happens, we sell the stock and put proceeds into the money market accounts per policy.

**Marketing** – no meetings or report.

**Health and Wellness** – no meetings or report.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Further discussion of facility issues – Jordan Singer continues in the role of building maintenance advisor. He described plumbing problems due to corrosion in very old and narrow iron drain pipes. Meg asked about the feasibility of installing solar panels. Jordan identified the need for a new electrical panel to support upgrades that could include solar panels and changing the heating and hot water system from propane boiler to electrical. Greg noted a recent bid for installing an air to water heat pump by Northwest Mechanical coming in at \$50,000.

### **Board Elections:**

We currently have 9 board members. Terms for current board members Greg Eisen, Jordan Singer, and Rebecca Hollenbock are expiring, and Rebecca is not standing for reelection as well as stepping away from roles as assistant treasurer and retreat registrar (at the end of Kyol Che). The board has recommended going forward with 8 members. The board meets on the second Sunday of January, May, August, and November with an occasional meeting called for special issues such as this year regarding plans for retreat meals.

Greg Eisen was nominated by Meg Critchlow for another two year term. Second by Bob Kutter. Approved by unanimous vote.

Jordan Singer, after describing his view of board membership and interest in continuing on the board was nominated by Jeong Bong, SSN (Eric Nord) for another two year term. Second by Greg Eisen. Approved by unanimous vote.

**New Business:**

Newsletter – Meg has been putting together the monthly newsletter for publishing but wants to hand off the job at this point or at least looking for help with the work. Beth Mountsier is willing to do this depending on learning more.

There was some additional discussion about impressions of how the retreat meals went in the prior two days.

Next Sangha meeting is scheduled for 4/12/26.

**Adjourned**