



Sacramento Insight Meditation

FINAL

Sacramento Insight Meditation Board Meeting Minutes, October 26, 2020

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 pm on Monday, October 26, 2020, videoconferencing.

In Attendance

President	Cathy Vigran	Member-At-Large	Alice Carney
Vice President	Jerry Simkins	Member-At-Large	Jon Siiteri
Treasurer	Sara Denzler	Faculty Rep	Absent
Secretary	Barbara Briscoe	SDC Rep	Bob Jenne
Recorder	Chris Bitonti	Member-At-Large	Amy Kovak

Beginnings

The meeting was called to order by the President, Cathy Vigran, at 6:00 pm. She led the group in a brief period of meditation followed by a reading of the *Guidelines: Board Participation as Dharma Practice* and a member check-in.

Minutes

The draft of the Board of Directors' meeting minutes for October 26, 2020, was revised and approved by the Board and will be available in the SIM library.

The October 26, 2020, *Action Items* were reviewed.

1.0 Fiscal

1.1. September 2020 Financial Reports

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$123,288.92

Activity:

TOTAL Column:

Net Revenue through July: \$14,686.72 (+\$869.47)

Net Revenue through August: \$14,364.12 (-\$322.60)

Net Revenue through September: \$22,956.26 (+8,592.14)

Total Equity:

-- Includes Past Annual Retreats

 \$1,000 remaining credit from Angela Center 2017

 -\$5,800 in registration fees/deposits 2018

1.2. Purchase of SIM Computer--tabled until November

1.3. Year-End Fundraising Letter 2020

Cathy Vigran asked Board members to review the fundraising letter drafted by Alice Carney for year-end 2020. The 2020 letter will focus on 2021 goals that will or will not require funding.

1.4 Diversion of SIM Dana to Other Groups

Sara Denzler raised the issue of requests by teachers to divert dana intended for them to other groups (including those not affiliated with SIM). After discussion, the Board approved a motion to divert dana only to entities within the SIM organization. Otherwise, teachers may use dana presented to them in any way they would like.

2.0. Community Outreach

2.1. Inclusivity Subcommittee Report and Statement Approval

After a lengthy discussion, Board members concluded that the statement provided by the Inclusivity Committee needs additional work prior to a Board vote. Cathay Vigran asked for volunteers to work on an ad hoc Board-appointed subcommittee to make suggestions to the Board and the full Inclusivity Committee. Jerry Simkins, Alice Carney and Amy Kovak volunteered to work together on this project.

2.2. Suggestions for overcoming “Zoom-fatigue” among Sangha members

Cathy Vigran brought up the issue of decreased participation in Thursday night Zoom sittings at SIM. She encouraged Board members to reach out individually--as she has done--to members who haven't been seen recently to provide support.

She also presented three suggestions that have been made to address this concern. Two of the ideas will be coordinated by Cathy and Sara Denzler: more systematic introduction of new SIM attendees (including welcome statement and information to them in “Chat”) and use of break-out groups during SIM break to encourage more personal interactions. The third suggestion (break-out groups at the end of the evening) was tabled.

2.3 Young People’s Sangha

Cathy reported that she followed up with Josh Harbin who informed her that he has launched a Facebook page for the Young Persons’ Sangha.

2.4 New Years’ Eve Event

Cathy reported that Diane Wilde suggested a “year end” event for the community that would be an alternative to the holiday party. It was suggested that there would be an opportunity to have such a event on New Year’s Eve, which falls on a Thursday night.

3.0. Retreat and Class Updates

3.1. Residential Retreat 2020: Development of Managers’ Handbook

Sara and Jerry are continuing to organize and upload documents from the 2020 residential retreat to the Google drive for review by Board members.

3.2. Status update - Other Side of Suffering and Beginning Meditation Classes

Cathy reported that Dennis Warren is pleased with how well the “Other Side of Suffering” class is going. Rich Howard reported to her that the Beginning Meditation Class (BMC) has had a fair amount of attrition and in the future might benefit from a co-teacher, perhaps a female. Sara suggested that Matt Russell may be willing to offer an MBSR class as a substitute for the Spring BMC and a BMC can be offered again in the Fall 2021. Board will discuss options with Rich Howard at next month’s meeting.

4.0. Board-Faculty Communication

4.1. Faculty Report

Cathy reported that Diane Wilde has reported a lack of enthusiasm from some community members about the Holiday event on Zoom this year. She suggested, and Board members agreed, that the event should proceed with those who are interested and want to be involved.

Six teachers are graduating from Spirit Rock or Insight Meditation Society teacher training programs in 2021. Cathy reported that Rich Howard proposed that SIM invite them (in groups of three) to attend a Thursday night session to present their experiences. He proposed that SIM provide a gift of dana to those who participate. Board members were amenable to that idea. Sara suggested that we ask Rich Howard whether he is suggesting a gift for all the graduating teachers, or just for those who will be available to participate in this event with SIM. Sara further suggested that the specific amount of the gift be determined after the year-end fundraising effort.

5.0. Volunteer Updates

5.1. Holiday Event Update

Jon Siiteri reported that plans for the event are progressing. Margaret Buss, Ian MacLeod, and Karen Tercho are working on it. Details will be presented at November's Board meeting.

5.2. St. John's Holiday Event

Sara Denzler reported that a dana link will be set up to elicit funds to cover the shopping that Vick Ruben will do for this event.

6.0. SDC

6.1. Building Report

Bob Jenne reported that he has posted his report in the "Meeting Materials" section on the Google drive. He noted that the solar panel installation will occur in November, rather than October due to delays in the permitting process.

6.2. Policy Report--tabled.

6.3. Re-Opening SDC Committee

Outdoor events are not yet allowed until the issue of who will do the training of group facilitators has been resolved.

7.0. Operations Issues

7.1. Board Recruitment/Officer Update

Cathy expressed her delight in welcoming Amy Kovak to the Board of Directors. She reported that Jon Siiteri has agreed to fill the Vice-President position being vacated by Jerry Simkins and also to step onto the Finance Committee. Cathy is not actively

making phone calls to recruit a seventh Board member. She did reach out to Karen Tercho of the Young Persons' Sangha (YPS) to discuss attending Board meetings as a YPS representative.

7.2. Board Approval of New Member

Sara Denzler suggested that a formal Board vote to approve the previous email approval of new Board member, Amy Kovak, be conducted, which then occurred. Sara Denzler suggested that a formal Board vote to approve the previous email approval of new Board member, Amy Kovak, be conducted, which then occurred.

7.3. Webpage Committee Report

Alice Carney reported that Dennis Warren is gathering information on web page designers. She will have more concrete information at the November Board meeting.

7.4. Protocol Updates

Online Recordings--Jerry's suggested protocol involving use of SIM Zoom Pro account with back-up plan was approved by the Board. Sabitre will be asked to continue scheduling SIM events in advance as she has been doing

Online Class Liaison--Jon Siiteri continues to work on this protocol.

Submission of items to eNews and webpage--tabled until November.

Online Guest Teacher--Rich Howard is working on this protocol.

7.5 Thanks to Jerry!

Participants in the meeting offered their thanks and best wishes to departing Board member, Jerry Simkins, who will continue to serve the SIM community in a variety of ways.

8.0. Pending Action Items

None

9.0. Next Board Meeting

November 23, 2020 @ 6pm - 8:30pm

Barbara Briscoe
SIM Board of Director, Secretary
(Recorder: Christine Bitonti)