



Sacramento Insight Meditation

FINAL

Sacramento Insight Meditation Board Meeting Minutes, December 28, 2020

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 pm on Monday, December 28, 2020, via videoconferencing.

In Attendance

President	Cathy Vigran	Member-At-Large	Alice Carney
Vice President	Jon Siiteri	Member-At-Large	Amy Kovak
Treasurer	Sara Denzler	Faculty Rep	Dennis Warren
Secretary	Barbara Briscoe	SDC Rep	Bob Jenne
Recorder	Chris Bitonti	YPS Rep	Karen Tercho

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 November 23, 2020, was revised and approved by the Board and will be available in the SIM library.

Action Items -- Barbara Briscoe reported that these items are now identified in the body of the minutes and can be discussed with each issue when addressed.

1.0. Fiscal

1.1. November Financial Reports

Activity:

TOTAL Column:

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

Net Revenue through October: \$12,136.46 (-\$10,819.80)

Net Revenue through November: \$15,512.82 (+\$3,3376.36)

Notes:

- As approved at October Board Meeting: \$6,000 paid to 6 Faculty and Guiding Teachers.
- \$100 extra dana came in and paid to St. John's

1.2 Presentation of 2021 Budget for approval

An extensive discussion of the proposed 2021 budget was facilitated by Sara Denzler. The budget document can be found in *Meeting Materials*. Board members approved the budget with two changes. They voted to increase dana to the seven graduating teachers from Spirit Rock and Insight Meditation Society from \$500 to \$750 and also approved increasing the budget for webpage development to \$20,000. Of special note in her report is an increase in individual donors to SIM from 138 to 380 in FY2020 (to date).

1.3 Proposal for transfer of funds to savings account

Board approved a proposal by Sara to transfer \$50,000 from checking to a savings account Sara has opened. This amount represents a six-month emergency operating fund for SIM.

1.4 Proposal for amendment to dana language

The following amended wording to an approved October Board proposal was approved:

“SIM will provide dana to teachers or entities within the SIM organization. Specific exceptions may be approved by the Finance Committee. Teachers may use dana presented to them however they like.”

2.0. Community Outreach

2.1 Board input for Diversity/Inclusivity Committee

A discussion of overlap between two committees working to increase diversity and inclusivity in SIM's membership and activities occurred. Amy Kovak and Alice Carney agreed to join the existing Diversity/Inclusivity Committee comprised of three faculty members (including Dennis Warren present for this discussion) and one Board member (Barbara Briscoe) (three with Amy's and Alice's participation) and Jerry Simkins past Board Vice-President. Therefore, the small Board subcommittee (focusing on wording for the webpage statement) has been combined with the larger D/I Committee which was tasked with developing a plan of action based on the list of potential initiatives already identified.

2.2 Follow-up on community-building Zoom suggestions

Cathy noted that the break-out rooms on Zoom have worked well and suggested that they be continued. Sara has a message that can be sent to new SIM attendees via CHAT. She will post the message and let Board members know where to find it. Cathy emphasized how important it is to provide this information to newcomers.

3.0 Retreat and Class Updates

3.1. Residential Retreat 2020: Development of Managers' Handbook

Sara continues to develop a timeline of activities and accompanying documents from the 2020 Zoom retreat.

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

See Faculty Report (Section 4.1) below.

3.3 Board Liaison Volunteers for Spring Classes

After extensive discussion, it was determined that there should be a Board Liaison assigned to each class. Amy Kovak and Jon Siiteri volunteered to assist in the Spring and will discuss between themselves which will assist in the OSOS course.

4.0. Board-Faculty Communication

4.1. Faculty Report

Dennis reported on the successful "Other Side of Suffering" course that will be repeated in April for eleven weeks. There are 37 people on the wait list at present. In December, 39 people showed up for Dennis' one-day retreat, suggesting how much

people are yearning for a positive experience after such a tumultuous year. The “Beginning Meditation” course struggled with a high drop-out rate from 20 to 8 participants, owing in large part to the Zoom environment. Sandra Segrist has agreed to co-teach this course with Rich Howard in the future. The COVID support group has been closed to new members to maintain cohesion and intimacy.

The “Year to Live” course taught by Diane Wilde will wrap up in January. Diane will not teach it again in the Zoom environment, but will wait until in-person interactions can resume. Rich Howard is in the process of arranging for graduating Spirit Rock and IMS teachers to attend SIM on a Thursday night--April 22 for Spirit Rock, IMS pending.

On behalf of the faculty, Dennis expressed appreciation to Board members for their generous end-of-year gifts.

5.0. Volunteer Updates

5.1. Holiday Event Recap, appreciation

Jon and Cathy reported on the highly successful Holiday Event. Cathy proposed sending a gift card to those involved in planning and implementing the event. Board approved the proposal.

6.0. SDC

6.1. Building Report

Bob Jenne reported that his report is on file with no major updates. Several Board members expressed their pleasure at the completion of the solar panel work. Sara noted that both the interior and exterior of the Dharma Center look impressive.

6.2. Policy Report

Cathy reported that there are no policy changes to discuss. In the future, a conflict resolution process may be developed.

6.3. Re-Opening SDC Committee, Update

Jon reported that there is no update, but reopening is not likely to occur in the near future due to increasing COVID cases in the area.

7.0. Operations Issues

7.1. Webpage Committee Report

Alice Carney and Dennis Warren reported that discussions regarding webpage development are ongoing after their consultation with the Florida sangha serving as a model. Their next step is to develop an action plan and timeline for the Board to consider with costs attached.

7.2. Protocol Update

Protocol for Online Daylong Retreat--to be addressed in January 2021.

Remote Class Liaison Protocol--posted by Jon in Meeting Materials on Google Drive. It is completed and ready to archive.

Submission of items to eNews and webpage--Sara states this protocol is in progress.

Barbara Briscoe is in the process of identifying where to locate the various protocols.

9.0. Next Board Meeting

January 25, 2021 @ 6pm - 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted, SIM Secretary
Barbara Briscoe
Recorder
Chris Bitonti

