



Sacramento Insight Meditation

DRAFT

Sacramento Insight Meditation Board Meeting Minutes, April 12 2021

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 pm on Monday, April 12, 2021, via videoconferencing.

In Attendance

President	Cathy Vigran	Member-At-Large	Tony Pruitt
Vice President	Jon Siiteri	Member-At-Large	Amy Kovak
Treasurer	Sara Denzler	Faculty Rep	Rich Howard
Secretary	Absent	SDC Rep	Bob Jenne
Recorder	Christine Bitonti	YPS Rep	Karen Tercho

Beginnings

The meeting was called to order by 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 March 22, 2021, was revised and approved by the Board and will be available in the SIM library.

The March *Action Items* were reviewed.

1.0. Fiscal

1. March Financial Reports (Sara)

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$116,244.41

Activity:

TOTAL Column:

Net Revenue through January: \$4,370.35

Net Revenue through February: \$1,889.48 (-\$2,630.87)

Net Revenue through March: \$4,719.16 (+\$2,829.68)

Other Financial Items: None

2.0. Community Outreach

2.1 Update from Diversity/Inclusivity Committee

Amy Kovak reported that Jerry Simkins has resigned from the Committee. She will reach out to other members to assess their level of interest in continuing the complex work of this committee.

2.2 Young Persons Sangha (YPS) update

Karen Tercho reported positive and enthusiastic feedback from YPS members regarding the dates for the 2021 Annual Retreat. Many of them plan to attend because it will be held over the long Labor Day weekend, precluding conflicts with their work schedules.

Executive Session

Confidential - Subject: YPS participation

3.0. Retreat and Class Updates

3.1. Residential Retreat 2020: Development of Managers' Guidance

Sara reviewed the process for the 2020 online retreat and has posted documents from her work on this issue in the SIM Library. There will be additional details filled in as it is a working document.

3.2 Residential Retreat planning 2021

Tony Pruitt, Amy Kovak, Rich Howard, Sara Denzler, and possibly Alice Carney will work as a team to plan the 2021 online retreat, entitled “Awareness and Equanimity.” Kamala Masters and Steve Armstrong have agreed to lead the retreat from Friday, September 3 to Monday, September 6. They will give practice guidance through Q&A sessions (with curated written questions). Because breakout groups will not be necessary with this format, the teachers do not require limiting attendance (although the Board may consider a cut-off number given the administrative work required).

The Board agreed that a pre-registration questionnaire is not needed to determine interest among regular SIM attendees and donors, since it is likely that everyone wishing to attend will be accommodated. Nevertheless, Thursday attendees and SIM 2020 Retreat attendees will be notified of registration opening prior to the public at large.

Amy is looking for a registrar. While Michael Paddy had indicated interest in this position, he will not be available (due to personal travel) during the month of August, immediately preceding the retreat. Amy asked Board members to make suggestions to her by email.

3.3 Residential Retreat planning 2022

Rich Howard reported that Greg Schaaf is interested in leading the 2022 Annual Retreat. Greg would prefer to work with a co-teacher and suggested Neesha Patel as a possible candidate. The date might need to be altered to accommodate his teaching schedule, and he informed Rich that he might have availability in late August/early September or late April/early May. A discussion ensued about the advantages of moving the event to the Spring to avoid heat and possible smoke from fall fires in California. It is not yet clear when the Auburn retreat center will be open to in-person activities. Board members agreed that as more information becomes available (re: lifting of COVID restrictions and further updates from Greg regarding the availability of a co-teacher), decisions may need to be made earlier than usual since the planning time would be shortened considerably if a Spring date is chosen.

4.0. Board-Faculty Communication

4.1. Faculty Report

Rich reported that Dennis’ class is full and going well. Rich already has 20+ people interested in the Beginning Meditation class starting May 12. Diane’s COVID Support Group is continuing, and she has a number of individual dharma sessions underway. She is waiting for in-person gatherings to be allowed before beginning another “Year To Live” class, although registration is open.

A list of visiting teachers for about a dozen upcoming events (Thursday nights and daylong retreats) can be found in the SIM Library. Board members commented that it is an exciting group of teachers who will be coming to SIM over the next several months.

5.0. Volunteer Updates

5.1 Registrar Volunteers

Amy reported that five people have volunteered to be registrars for daylong retreats and will be trained. She is looking for Zoom hosts for May and July events.

5.2 Volunteers for In-person Events

Cathy noted that since the SDC notified her that in-person events at the Dharma Center may begin as early as July, she will notify Margaret Buss so that she can begin to reassemble her cadre of volunteers for in-person events at SIM. It was noted that there are still uncertainties about when in-person events for SIM will resume, and Margaret will be kept informed as decisions are made.

6.0. SDC

6.1. Building Report

Bob Jenne noted that his report is on file in the SIM Library. He reported that there are three projects in process: 1) SMUD's approval for activating the solar panels, 2) north yard transformation, and 3) audiovisual equipment installation. He will confirm if Jerry Simkins and David Guerrieri are still interested in representing SIM on the SDC audiovisual committee.

6.2. Policy Report

Cathy read a report from Barbara Colton from her SDC Board attendance. SDC Board is considering recommendations regarding the reopening of the Center. It is yet unclear whether sanghas can deviate from whatever policies are put in place (most likely making them more, not less, restrictive for members). Barbara continues to look for a volunteer to take over Linda Dekker's responsibility (calendar host, etc.).

6.3. SDC Re-Opening Committee

Jon reported on an April 2 meeting of this committee at which a target reopening date was discussed. The earliest possible reopening (with COVID restrictions) will likely be July 1. Some small groups (up to 10 people) may be allowed sooner. He described a questionnaire with seven questions to be sent to SDC participants from the three sanghas regarding COVID risks and sangha participation. A final proposal to the SDC Board will be developed at the committee's June 1 meeting.

During this discussion, an app that helps people to determine their own COVID infection risk was mentioned. This will be posted in the e-news and elsewhere.

6.4 Art and Design Committee

The question concerning SIM's representation on and communication with the SDC Art and Design committee was tabled until the May meeting.

7.0. Operations Issues

7.2. Webpage Committee Report

Committee is looking for a third website development bid. Jon reported that he and Alice are leaning in favor of awarding a contract to “Three29,” a local company that gives discounts to nonprofit organizations. The bid from “Three29” was \$10,500. Another bidder was substantially higher. A recommendation from this committee will be forthcoming.

Per Amy, Sabitre has suggested resources for conducting online courses and upgrading Zoom (e.g., to do transcriptions). Board members thought that these ideas should be discussed with the Faculty before any decisions are made. Rich said that members of the Faculty will get in touch with Sabitre regarding the details.

Sara noted that payment for domain names that are owned by SIM is coming due soon. She suggested a review of the organization’s need for several different names which we currently own but are not using.

7.3. Protocol Update

Hosting for monthly Introduction to Meditation

Cathy asked Rich to discuss this protocol (available in the SIM Library) with other members of the Faculty before final approval.

Submitting Items to E-news and Website

This item was tabled until the May meeting, pending review by all Board members.

8.0. Next Board Meeting

May 10, 2021 @ 6pm - 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Vigran, President
Christine Bitonti, Recorder

