



Sacramento Insight Meditation

FINAL

Sacramento Insight Meditation Board Meeting Minutes, May 10, 2021

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 PM on Monday, May 10, 2021 via teleconferencing

In Attendance

President	Cathy Vigran	Member-At-Large	Tony Pruitt
Vice President	Jon Siiteri	Member-At-Large	Amy Kovak
Treasurer	Sara Denzler	Faculty Rep	Diane Wilde
Secretary	Alice Carney	SDC Rep	Bob Jenne

Beginnings

The meeting was convened by President, Cathy Vigran, at 6:00PM and began with a brief sitting and the reading of the “Board Participation Guidelines” followed by a “check-in” with participants.

Minutes

The draft of the Board of Directors’ meeting minutes for April 12, 2021, was approved by the Board and will be available in the SIM library. Regarding the notes from the Executive Session

on April 12, 2021, Diane Wilde requested a few edits, which she will make, and the document will be approved by email messaging.

Review of April Action Items—no report from Jon Siiteri at present.

1.0 Fiscal

1.1. April Financial Reports

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$115,710.69

Activity (TOTAL Column):

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

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

Net Revenue through April: \$4,045.43 (-\$673.73)

1.2 Approval of SIM \$1,400 contribution to SDC for audiovisual purchases

Motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

1.3 Additional Fiscal Issues

Sara reported that SIM members were generous with dana for visiting teachers (recent graduates from Spirit Rock teacher training program). As a result, they were provided with more than the minimum dana previously approved by the Board without any subsidy. Board unanimously approved a \$200 subsidy for each of the graduates (from the IMS teacher training program) coming in June, if dana is insufficient.

2.0. Community Outreach

2.1 Update from Diversity/Inclusivity Committee

Amy reported that she has contacted Diane Wilde, Rich Howard, Dennis Warren, and Barb Briscoe to assess their interest in remaining on this committee (the latter three choosing to remain). Alice and Amy will represent the Board. One issue under discussion by this committee is how to attract diverse teachers (BIPOC, LGBTQ+) to SIM events, which, hopefully, will help to make SIM a welcoming and inclusive sangha. East Bay Meditation Center may be able to provide teachers who generally prefer teaching by videoconference.

2.2 YPS

A comprehensive report from Karen Tercho is on file in the Google Docs Library folder.

The group has decided to continue meeting weekly on Tuesday with peer facilitators in addition to the book club meetings. YPS would like to make a contribution to an AAPI organization, Red Canary Song, from dana collected by the group. Ian will discuss this proposal with SIM Treasurer, Sara, to work out the details.

Executive Session (Review and debriefing from last month's agenda item)

A separate report will be made available to Board and Faculty members.

2.3 SIM's readiness to return on Thursday nights

Numerous questions remain unanswered regarding this issue: Will people feel comfortable returning? What about the volunteer core—will they want to help? How will online presence be maintained (training and consistency issues)? Will teachers be willing to teach in-person? Is July a realistic opening time?

Bob Jenne assured the Board that the audiovisual equipment is fully installed and working (one sangha has already used it successfully). More work needs to be done to address the complex issues a “Hybrid” approach (in-person and remote) raises. Tony Pruitt is willing to work with Bob and other SIM volunteers to prepare for these events. The Board discussed the possibility that an audiovisual technician may need to be hired to run the equipment during SIM weekly meetings and one-day retreats.

2.4 Proposal from SBMG for Sunday morning events

It remains unclear whether SIM will commit to participate in an additional in-person monthly meeting, given the complexity of its own Thursday night process. Little interest was expressed at the Board meeting, so the issue will be tabled for later consideration. Margaret has volunteered to represent SIM in discussions with SBMG on this matter.

3.0. Retreat and Class Updates

3.1 Residential Retreat planning 2021

Planning for this year's retreat continues with a decision to keep the \$100 registration fee with an option for scholarships. Additionally there will be the opportunity to give dana to the teachers. There will be no small group check-ins this year, so the Committee decided to allow more people to attend. The Zoom account limits participants to 100 people, which is more than an in-person event would allow. Priority registration will be given to SIM participants prior to opening up the retreat to others.

Since no volunteer has been identified for the registrar position, Sara asked the Board to consider paying someone to do this job (at \$20-25/hour). The Board supported this idea. She made two recommendations and will follow up first with someone who is well-qualified to act in this regard from a remote location. Registrars for fall classes are still needed, as well.

3.2 Residential Retreat planning 2022

Sara will check with the Mercy Center in Auburn regarding their reopening plans and whether a Spring retreat would also be an option for SIM.

4.0. Board-Faculty Communication

4.1. Faculty Report

A comprehensive written report from Diane Wilde is on file in the Google Docs Library folder. She noted that there has been a discussion among faculty about a follow-up course to Begin-

ning Meditation. Sara supported the idea, while raising some concerns about having enough volunteers and some logistical issues that Diane will bring up at the next faculty meeting.

4.2 Dana for new teachers

This item was discussed under Fiscal 1.3

5.0. Volunteer Updates - (Tabled until June Meeting)

5.1 Update from Margaret

While discussion on this topic was tabled, Alice Carney did mention that it would be helpful to discuss service as a form of dana (in addition to financial giving) when the subject is addressed at Thursday night sittings.

6.0. SDC

6.1. Building Report

A comprehensive report by Bob Jenne is on file in the Google Docs SIM Library folder.

6.2. Policy Report

Cathy did not have anything new to report from Barbara Colton, since SIM Board meetings are now held before SDC's each month. She expects more information to be forthcoming.

6.3. SDC Re-Opening Committee, Update

Jon reported that this committee will meet on June 1 to clarify SDC's policy on reopening the Center.

6.4 Art & Design Comm. Representation and Communication

Bob Jenne and Vicki Rubin will be SIM representatives to this committee with Lynelle McNeil as an independent consultant. Window coverings are under consideration. Bob is hoping that the matter will not be controversial, as the coverings will not change the appearance of the meditation hall significantly.

7.0. Operations Issues

7.1. Webpage Committee Report

Alice reported that the committee continues to compare proposals and to meet with company representatives. Jon held a lengthy discussion with Elevation, an organization that works with nonprofit entities, and was impressed with the details offered in their proposal and its price. A meeting with the Board and Elevation staff may be arranged in the future to discuss their offer.

7.2 Refining Access to Google drive

There are a few issues to resolve concerning where to put various documents in the Google drive (e.g., Executive Session notes). Sara is consulting with Sabitre about how to limit access to confidential items.

7.3. Protocol Approval -
 Hosting for monthly Introduction to Meditation
 Submitting Items to E-news and Website

Discussion was tabled on these items until next month.

8.0. Next Board Meeting

Monday, June 12, 2021 @ 6pm - 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Carney, Secretary
Christine Bitonti, Recorder