



# Sacramento Insight Meditation

## FINAL

### Sacramento Insight Meditation

### Board Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2021

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 PM on Monday, August 9, 2021 via teleconferencing

#### In Attendance

<b>President</b>	Cathy Vigran	<b>Member-At-Large</b>	(T. Pruitt absent)
<b>Vice President</b>	Jon Siiteri	<b>Member-At-Large</b>	Amy Kovak
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sara Denzler	<b>Faculty Rep</b>	Rich Howard
<b>Secretary</b>	Absent	<b>SDC Rep</b>	Bob Jenne
<b>Recorder</b>	Christine Bitonti	<b>YPS Rep</b>	Karen Tercho
<b>Volunteer Coord.</b>	Margaret Buss		

#### Beginnings

The meeting was called to order by President Catherine 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**

Review and Approval (unanimous) of July Meeting Minutes

Jon Siiteri agreed to review July Action Items as the meeting progressed and report as needed.

### **1.0. Fiscal**

#### 1. July Financial Reports

#### Financial Summary as of July 31, 2021

Prior to this meeting, the Treasurer reviewed SIM's Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity Reports for January – June, 2021. Those reports are provided in the Meeting Materials.

SIM's finances stand as follows:

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$126,514.77

Activity (TOTAL Column):

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

Net Revenue through May: \$7,517.70 (+\$3,472.27)

Net Revenue through June: \$7,908.41 ( +\$390.71))

Net Revenue through July: \$9,949.52 (+\$2,041.11)

Note: Net Revenue through July includes approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in registration fees for the annual retreat.

### **2.0. Community Outreach**

#### 2.1 Reopening/closing SIM

An extensive discussion occurred regarding the issue of SIM continuing to offer in-person/hybrid activities on site at the Dharma Center in light of the COVID Delta variant. All attendees expressed their thoughts on the matter. Margaret had asked volunteers if they would continue to participate if SIM continued to have in-person activities, and all who responded had indicated their willingness to do so. Several Board members noted that SIM can take steps (e.g. require masking, spread out seats, increase air filtration) to mitigate risk, allowing individuals to decide for themselves whether to attend in-person based on their own comfort levels. Rich noted that at present scientific data indicate low risk for those who are fully vaccinated. The Board does not propose to verify the vaccination status of in-person attendees, but will state clearly in the e-

news and on the web page that anyone who is un-immunized should participate by Zoom only. Cathy noted that it is a benefit to offer vaccinated members of the community the opportunity to practice at the Dharma Center under the safest conditions we can provide.

A motion to maintain the hybrid model for programming at SIM for the time being was passed unanimously. Board members were also in agreement about the following issues:

- The need for greater clarity in messaging to those who are unvaccinated, clearly instructing them to attend remotely
- Acquiring KN95 masks to have on hand for anyone wanting additional protection
- Offering help to any members needing assistance to access vaccinations
- Continuing to monitor epidemiological data from local Public Health officials for use in future decision-making on this issue

## 2.2 YPS Update

Karen Tercho reported that YPS continues to meet online every Tuesday for both peer and teacher-led sessions. They are considering a hybrid meeting for August 24, and discussions about scheduling (eg., once or twice a month for hybrid meetings) are ongoing. She continues to send reminders to members of the upcoming annual retreat and to look for an AV person to staff **YPS meetings**.

YPS members held a meeting with Rich and Sara regarding the issue of charitable giving by their sangha. Guidelines about giving in this manner are now in place. Currently, the group will focus on growing the sangha and encouraging dana in both monetary and volunteer forms, using the former to support teachers.

Karen indicated the group's interest in asking Vance Pryor to come back to teach at a YPS sangha meeting. Rich noted that Vance will be at SIM in September and November of this year, but is not scheduled for 2022.

## 2.3 Update from Diversity/Inclusivity Committee

This committee, now composed of Rich, Alice, and Amy, met on July 19 to begin discussions regarding the DEI statement and list of resources to be added to the website as well as offering guidelines to greeters on this issue. They will bring a statement to the Board for approval at a later date.

## 2.4 Caring Council

A meeting between Cathy and Barbara Briscoe is pending; they will report their suggestions to the Board at a later date.

## 3.0. Retreat and Class Updates

### 3.1 Residential Retreat planning 2021

Sara reported that 66 people have registered for the online retreat. Additional retreatants can be accommodated. To date, \$5900 in registration fees has been collected.

### 3.2 Board approval to reserve Scholarship money for next year

A discussion ensued regarding the use of funds that were donated to support scholarships. A motion to reserve those funds for next year when fees may be higher (if retreat is held in-person) was approved unanimously.

It should be noted that no one requesting a scholarship this year will be turned away. The reduced revenue from their discounted fees will not affect the operation of the retreat.

## **4.0. Board-Faculty Communication**

### 4.1. Faculty Report

Rich Howard was in attendance, representing the Faculty. At present, daylong retreats have been online only, but the Faculty would like to have a hybrid event in September if an AV individual can be found.

The Board approved unanimously a motion to authorize payment of \$100 to an AV specialist for daylong events.

The Faculty is proposing a new course to be offered to graduates of the Beginning Meditation course and open to any other SIM participants who might be interested. The course will be a bridge to more involvement in the sangha and will be based loosely on the precepts, offering practical ways to apply meditation techniques and Buddhist principles in daily life.

Faculty reports for July and August prepared by Diane Wilde are on file in the Google drive.

## **5.0. Volunteer Updates**

### 5.1 Volunteer update

Margaret reported that she is actively supporting set-up volunteers, but not dana depositors who have been organized by Jerry Simkins. Robin Primavera has expressed interest in organizing greeters and will be approached again on this issue. Margaret emphasized that she uses Convoy to manage volunteer activities, which other volunteer organizers may not necessarily want to do.

### 5.2 Acknowledgement of AV team

Cathy expressed gratitude for all of the AV volunteers, most of them from the YPS sangha, who have stepped up to help SIM transition to a hybrid meeting approach. She proposed formally acknowledging them and offering a gift.

A motion to provide a \$100 Co-op gift card to each of the members of the AV team was approved unanimously by the Board.

## **6.0. SDC**

### **6.1. Building Report**

Bob Jenne's Building report is on file in the Google drive. He stated that the furniture for the north yard project that was recently completed will be delivered this week. He hopes this area will provide additional space for SIM members to socialize during the Thursday night break.

### **6.2. Policy Report**

Cathy did not receive any additional information from Barbara Colton this month, but is aware that SDC continues to look for someone to keep the calendar up-to-date. Sabitre will be approached by Barbara about this. The Design sub-committee continues to work on selection of window blinds and will report to the SDC Board soon. Linda's job tasks have been parceled out to various people.

## **7.0. Operations Issues**

### **7.1. Webpage Committee Report**

This committee anticipates updating the SIM Board of Directors on its activities at its October meeting.

### **7.2. Protocol Approval**

*Hosting for monthly Introduction to Meditation:* Sara reported that she needs to check with the Faculty on a few details before finalizing the protocol, which she will present to the BOD at next month's meeting.

*Submitting Items to E-news and Website:* This protocol has been posted on the Google drive after Sara incorporated feedback from the Faculty. It was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors.

Sara also noted that she will draft some language regarding how to deal with difficult people for the Faculty to review prior to the next Board meeting.

## **8.0 Next Board Meeting**

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held September 13, 2021 @ 6pm-8:30pm

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Catherine Vigran, President  
Christine Bitonti, Recorder

