



Sacramento Insight Meditation

FINAL **Sacramento Insight Meditation** **Board Meeting Minutes, February 14, 2022**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 pm on Monday, February 14, 2022, via videoconferencing.

In Attendance:

President	Jon Siiteri	Member-At-Large	Karen Tercho
Vice President	Tony Pruitt	Member-At-Large	Amy Kovak
Treasurer	Sara Denzler	Faculty Rep	Rich Howard
Secretary	Alice Carney	SDC Rep	Bob Jenne
Recorder	Karen Tercho	YPS Rep	Idris Ahmed

Beginnings

The meeting was called to order by the President, Jon Siiteri at 6:00 pm. He 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 of January Meeting Minutes: The draft of the Board of Directors' meeting minutes for January 10, 2022, was revised and approved unanimously by the Board.

Review Action Items (Jon) - no pending action items at this time other than what is on tonight's agenda

1.0. Fiscal (6:25-6:30)

1.1 Financial Summary as of January 31, 2022 (Sara)

Prior to this meeting, the Treasurer reviewed SIM's Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity Reports for January 2022. Those reports are provided in the Meeting Materials.

SIM's finances stand as follows:

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$119,574.99

Activity (GENERAL Column):

Net Revenue through January: -\$5,768.81 (subsequently corrected to -\$8,234.81 to reflect TOTAL column)

Notes:

General expenditures included \$2,500 payment to the SDC for the Mortgage pay-down campaign and \$2,990 deposit to Three29 for website work.

Additionally, \$2,566 deposit was paid to the Mercy Center to reserve the venue for the Annual Retreat.

2.0. Operations Issues (6:30-6:50)

2.1 Covid Safety Protocol - Re-Opening (Jon)

Latest data indicate that conditions have improved with infections going down, it is expected that Gov. Newsom will end the mask mandate for many indoor activities.

Jon asked the Board to give input on going back in person using prior SIM guidelines (masking indoors, maintain distancing). Discussion points:

- Numbers (COVID case rates) for Sacramento County are not as low as we would like to re-open.
- Comments that SIM could stay closed for the current week
- Comments that SIM could reopen beyond the current week.
- Ideas - check for vaccination status at the door; use of N95 or KN95 masks?
 - Checking folks for vaccination at the door could easily become problematic.
- We would like enough lead time to inform community members and mobilize volunteers.
- Discussion ensues on benefits vs. costs
- February 24th would be the soonest SIM would re-open?
- Questions about upcoming events - Sara will contact Dirk (A/V help) - relay that SIM is still determining when it will be safest to re-open.

Group agrees to look at COVID case numbers on Feb. 22 and then make a decision on in-person / hybrid for Feb. 24 (Tony, Thursday sit & talk) and Feb. 26 (Dennis daylong).

Tony will update / ask Sabitre to move Heather's talk (Thursday 2/17) to Zoom only.

2.2 Website Committee Report (Alice)

Committee met recently with Max (Three29), Jon, Alice, Amy - chose a web template. Three29 is creating a development site. Karen has joined the website committee.

3.0. Community Outreach (6:50-7:05)

3.1 YPS Update (Idris)

Proposal has been brought up to pay teachers / dana - \$60 to be matched by SIM (total of \$120). SIM Board approved unanimously. Note that this dana goes to YPS visiting teachers with a frequency of once per month (not more than that).

3.2 Update from Diversity/Inclusivity Committee (Amy)

Group has been on hold and the committee needs to be reorganized to meet later this month or early next month. Amy will check in with the group and schedule the next meeting.

3.3 Listening Council membership, approval (Cathy)

Cathy sent an email to SIM Board members with a summary of sangha members to be appointed to the Listening Council: Barbara Briscoe, Tom Vigran, Jerry Simkins, Robin Primavera.

Move to approve the four members of the Listening Council. This was passed unanimously by the Board.

4.0. Retreat and Class Updates (7:05-7:25)

4.1 Residential retreat 2022, update and approve Retreat Committee (Sara)

- Jerry Simkins has accepted the role of retreat manager. Josh Harbin will serve as registrar.
- Tony, Amy, Rich, and Sara are on the retreat committee, with input from Jon on Covid protocols. Documents are in the process of being updated.
- Committee plans to put out a survey in March to ask community members about interest in holding an in-person retreat (and potential protocols)
- Registration would begin in April.
- In May, SIM will be on the hook for ~\$6000; by early June, SIM will be committed for ~\$13,000. Near the end of June, the committee will take another reading on how many

participants. If at least half the people sign up and have paid in full, liability would stay at around \$13K.

- Suggestion of using Google Forms as a survey tool. Karen offers to help with building the survey.

4.2 Update on Classes (Amy, Sara)

- Dennis' Spring OSOS class is now open for registration (Sabitre is supporting Dennis with registration tasks).
- Beginning Meditation class (Josh is registrar). There are now 14 people signed up.

5.0. Board-Faculty Communication (7:25-7:55)

5.1 Faculty Report (Rich)

- Legacy Project has been the primary focus of SIM faculty.
- Beginning Meditation class - Benicia Sangha is sending over some students who will register.

5.2 Senior Faculty Legacy Proposal - discuss Overview Statement and Proposed Structure and Approach documents (Rich)

Thank you to Cathy for inspiring and supporting the Legacy Project proposal.

Group looks at two documents: SIM Legacy Project:

- Overview Statement - This statement includes historical background of community; intention of the project which is grounded in the original mission, vision, and means statement. Vision is to build on the foundation that we already have as a 20-year old Vipassana community. Open the diversity of our teaching and be sure that it is welcoming and relevant to current and potential community members. Expand the core faculty to three younger teachers. Steering committee would take the vision document and adapt it for specific purposes.
- One Potential Structure and Approach - This contains specifics on implementing the project. Would be signed off by the SIM Board. Steering committee would develop a comprehensive plan for community involvement. Funding plan would be led by the Board with help from the Faculty. Close coordination with the website committee is required. SIM's 20th anniversary year would be a good opportunity to roll out the program to the community. Fourth quarter of this year the plan would be rolled out; behind the scenes work by the committee would be done up until that point.

5.3 Approve Steering Committee; appoint members (Jon)

From faculty, Rich and Dennis have offered to serve on the Steering Committee; from the Board, Tony and Alice offer to serve as Steering Committee members. Karen offers to serve as

a bridge from Website Committee to Steering Committee (web presence for project, marketing-related things). Sara will provide financial guidance.

Comments: To meet the needs of community members, a survey should go out to ask questions like “What qualities would you like to see in a SIM teacher?” Agreement that plans for the project should be shared, including asking the community for input, along the way.

5.4 Authorize Steering Committee to develop tasks and timelines as outlined in Proposed Structure and Approach (Jon)

Motion to approve the Steering Committee members: Dennis Warren, Rich Howard, Tony Pruitt, Alice Carney - motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

6.0. Volunteer Updates (7:55 - 8:00)

6.1 Re-Opening needs (Jon) - This was addressed earlier (see 2.1)

7.0. SDC (8:00 - 8:10)

7.1 SDC Report (Jon)

External defibrillator has been ordered for SDC. Jon will help organize and lead this effort.

7.2 Building Report (Bob) - no report

7.3 Need for new SIM representative for SDC (Jon)

Bob’s term on the SDC Board (SIM rep to SDC) ends in May. Lots of transitions going on right now on the SDC Board - there is a leadership vacuum. Barbara (SDC president) terms out in March, but has agreed to stay on a bit longer; Larry is stepping down as treasurer. A part-time office manager (for SDC) will be hired. There are new openings for SDC board members. VP, Treasurer spots will need to be filled very soon. Bob asked SIM Board to talk to potential SDC board members (from the SIM community). SDC terms last for three years (with option to serve a second term), but understandable if life happens and board members need to step down.

Question as to who at SDC is responsible for recruiting? SIM would recruit the SIM representative.

Vision for the future of the Dharma Center is needed along with new SDC board members - this could coincide. Day-to-day operations for SDC can no longer be handled solely by volunteer labor. SIM board agrees to mull this over and discuss it. There is the potential need for new SIM board members as well.

Celebration of Cathy's Tenure on the Board - Cathy was presented with gifts along with personal notes from SIM Board members. Cathy expressed gratitude to board members, excitement about what's coming up for SIM (new website, legacy project), and gracious appreciation of the flowering of the SIM community and the contributions of individual board members. From the SIM Board members, thank you Cathy!

8.0. Next Board Meeting

March 14, 2022 @ 6pm - 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Carney, Secretary
Karen Tercho, Recorder