



Sacramento Insight Meditation

FINAL

Sacramento Insight Meditation

Board Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2022

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 11, 2022 via teleconferencing

In Attendance

President	Jon Siiteri	Member-At-Large	
Vice President	Tony Pruitt	Member-At-Large	Amy Kovak
Treasurer	Sara Denzler	Faculty Rep	Diane Wilde
Secretary	Absent	SDC Rep	Bob Jenne
Recorder	Christine Bitonti	Member-At-Large	Karen Tercho

Beginnings

The meeting was called to order by 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

Minutes of the March 14, 2022 SIM Board meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

1.0. Fiscal

1.1 Financial Summary as of March 31, 2022

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

SIM's finances stand as follows:

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$124,121.34

Activity (Total Column):

Net Revenue through January: -\$8,234.81

Net Revenue through February: -\$4,901.18 (+3,203.63)

Net Revenue through March: -\$5,640.46 (-\$739.28)

2.0. Operations Issues

2.1 Covid Protocols

Jon Siiteri reported that COVID precautions will remain unchanged. SIM requires high quality masks inside the Dharma Center. This requirement may be relaxed in the future unless the Omicron variant becomes more problematic.

2.2 Website Committee Report

Amy reported that the Website Committee with Jon, Amy, and Karen (Alice absent) met with the design team from three29. The designers presented four color schemes for the committee to consider. SIM Board members reviewed the schemes and provided their feedback. Faculty representative Diane Wilde pointed out the need for any text on the website to stand out from the background, rather than to blend into it, for readability. Amy reported that the project is moving along. A photographer came to SDC to take pictures of the statue of Buddha on the altar at the request of the designers. Expected completion date of the project is by June, 2022.

2.3 Need for Additional SIM and SDC Board Members

Jon and Tony provided an update on their efforts to recruit new board members for both SIM and SDC. Ian M. has removed himself from consideration. Greg G. has expressed interest in serving on the SIM Board; Jon has provided him with information about this role. A discussion ensued regarding how best to proceed with recruitment. Board members were encouraged to begin informal conversations with SIM members, noting that Jenny de Guzman could be a potential candidate. Board members were reminded to let each other know before approaching a sangha member about potential board service so as to avoid that member being approached by multiple Board members.

3.0. Board-Faculty Communication

3.1 Faculty Participation and Report

Diane Wilde reported that the Faculty did not meet this past month, but individually provided their own updates (report on file). Dennis Warren does not want further administrative duties at SIM, leaving Diane and Rich Howard to share the responsibility for informing the Board. They propose providing a verbal report at the beginning of SIM Board meetings after which they would be permitted to leave, if desired. Diane expressed a wish to promote Sati Center (Redwood City) activities for SIM members, prompting a discussion about providing information about practice and learning opportunities from other Theravadan sanghas, in general, in the

SIM e-NEWS. There was agreement that this would be helpful to SIM members. Karen mentioned that we can include a link to Sati Center in the "Other Resources" menu of the new website. Sara suggested considering the idea in the context of updating the e-NEWS format.

3.2 Teacher Scheduling Committee

Jon proposed that a committee of three SIM members (not necessarily Board members) be appointed to take over the duties that Rich has been assuming to identify and schedule dharma teachers for various SIM events. Rich is willing to work with the committee over the summer months to orient them to the process. He will also investigate how other nearby sanghas (including SBMG) accomplish this important task. Tony and Karen expressed interest in working on this committee.

4.0. Community Outreach

4.1 YPS Update

Karen provided a brief, impromptu report in Idris' absence, noting that the schedule of upcoming teachers for YPS looks interesting and that the group appears to be operating well.

4.2 Update from Diversity/Inclusivity Committee

A meeting of this committee has not been organized yet. Amy reported that she is working on it. The first task will be to develop text for a land acknowledgement needed for the website.

4.3 Board eNEWS updates to the community

Tony facilitated a discussion about a new process he is proposing to acquaint the sangha with Board members and their activities, providing a written summary of his ideas. While Board meeting minutes are made available to SIM members, it is likely that few read them. And, given the nature of meeting minutes, members may not be inspired by what they read. Tony wants the Board to foster a stronger connection with the sangha. He proposed that each month a personal message be sent by email (possibly separate from e-NEWS) to members from a different Board member regarding some issue of common concern (e.g., Legacy project, website development, etc.). This message would contain a simple, brief narrative concerning the intent of a particular project or thoughts on an issue under Board consideration. It could also include a picture of the Board member to acquaint them with SIM leadership. Jon moved that the idea be pursued further by the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

5.0. Retreat and Class Updates

5.1 Upcoming Daylong Retreat

A discussion regarding the upcoming daylong retreat with Greg Scharf was held. Board members were concerned about Greg's personal and dietary needs and the logistics of transporting him from place to place. Jon agreed to contact him with a few questions regarding these issues. Sara expressed concern about weather issues for the Friday outdoor tea. Bob Jenne noted that umbrellas will help with excessive sun, if needed. The Jenne family has offered to host the teacher in their guest house for the three nights he will be in Sacramento.

5.2 Residential retreat 2022, update

Sara summarized the 23 responses received from the emailed survey of sangha members regarding various issues related to the upcoming 2022 residential retreat, including COVID requirements. In advance of opening the registration process, she and Jerry have been working on a registrar's manual, and Sabitre is preparing the online process. Also, a manager's manual is being prepared.

Sara requested that the Board consider two actions: 1) Establishing a registration fee of \$900 with a \$450 deposit by May 15 and the remainder to be paid by June 15. 2) Requiring a \$225 deposit and a formal request by May 20 from those seeking scholarships. The Scholarship Committee will consider the requests and provide responses by early June to facilitate any additional payments needed. Both items were unanimously approved.

COVID protocols may change between now and the retreat date based on CDC, County and Mercy Center requirements and the needs of sangha members, many of whom are 60 years or older. As it stands, proof of vaccination and boosters will be mandatory along with self-testing within 24 hours prior to the start of the retreat and again a few days later. Masks will very likely be required for indoor activities outside of one's room.

5.3 Update on Classes

Sara shared her personal experiences helping out with the Beginning Meditation class, stating she has been learning a lot in her role assisting the teacher.

6.0. Volunteer Updates

6.1 A/V Operations

Karen reported that five individuals have been comprising the A/V crew. A few of them are phasing out. She recommended adding another paid A/V technician, which would allow for more strategic use of volunteers. Bob added that it would be good to have two paid technicians for adequate coverage and back-up. A motion to increase the A/V budget by approximately \$200/month on average passed unanimously.

7.0. SDC

7.1 SDC Report

Jon reported that there have been concerns about unscheduled events occurring in the Dharma Center, conflicting with other activities. The SDC Board is requiring sanghas to contact Linda if they wish to use the facility for an event not yet authorized. Each request will be distributed to all other sanghas for coordination.

7.2 Building Report

Bob reported that there is a new Board member, Sarah O'Grady, from Valley Streams sangha. Planting on the grounds continues. There is a need for \$1000 total from all three sangha to meet monthly expenses as insurance rates have increased.

8.0. Next Board Meeting

May 9, 2022 @ 6pm - 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Tercho, Acting Secretary
Christine Bitonti, Recorder