



Sacramento Insight Meditation

FINAL

Sacramento Insight Meditation

Board Meeting Minutes August 8, 2022

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 PM on Monday, August 8, 2022 via teleconferencing.

Attendance

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

Beginnings

The meeting began with a five-minute sitting, personal check-in, and reading of the Board Participation Guidelines.

Minutes

SIM Board Minutes from July 11, 2022 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

1.0. Board-Faculty Communication

1. Faculty Report

Written reports from Diane Wilde and Rich Howard are on file in Meeting Materials on the Google Drive. Dennis Warren did not file a report. Rich Howard, in attendance at the meeting, suggested a date of December 1 for SIM's 20th anniversary celebration. A discussion ensued concerning the nature of this event and COVID restrictions that might limit activities (e.g., absence of food). A number of names were suggested for speakers at the event, and some would likely appear on Zoom. Discussion will continue at the next Board meeting and among Faculty members.

2. Teacher Care Team - Identify Team candidates

Rich has volunteered to serve as the Faculty representative and Karen as the Board representative. Jon noted that Karen may be able to represent YPS if no one from that group (stretched thin at the moment) comes forward. Rich will ask around among sangha members to see if someone might be interested in joining this effort.

3. Legacy Project Update

Rich, Alice, and Tony have met to consider potential teachers. Three individuals—Walt Opie, Vance Pryor, and Neesha Patel—are under consideration. All have been contacted and are, as yet, unable to commit, citing other commitments they will have to consider. They have indicated that they would want to be co-equal collaborators. The three will meet together with the committee on September 7 for further discussion. Rich asked Sara if she would review her previous analysis of funds available to offer each teacher as a stipend for teaching four Thursday nights per year and possibly a daylong. She agreed to reassess the situation.

2.0. Fiscal

2.1 Financial Summary as of July 31, 2022

Monthly Report:

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

SIM's finances stand as follows:

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$137,963.59

Activity (Total Column):

Net Revenue through May: \$22,629.85 (+\$18,958.44)

Net Revenue through June: \$13,950.19 (-\$8,679.66)

Net Revenue through July: \$8,431.01 (-\$5,519.18)

Notes:

- The net expenditures for July includes payment of \$6,987.50 to Three29 for website work. This leaves a balance of \$357.50 remaining under the original contract, which has been invoiced and is in the process of approval for payment in August.

2.2 Dana levels

Initial review shows dana is down for the first half of 2022.

- Thursday nights – down from 2021, closer to 2019 level
- General Fund – down from 2021, closer to 2020 level
- Monthly Daylongs – so far higher than 2021 level

Encouraging dana:

- Make sure link is on the website and is in the Zoom chat. Remind zoom people after the break?
- During announcements - Be sure to talk about teachers supporting SIM by sharing the dharma. Say what % of dana is going to the teacher.

Sara commented that decreased dana may be due to issues with a hybrid environment and technical problems with the dana link. She suggested that SIM participants be reminded that most of the dana goes to support the teachers. Tony suggested that after the dharma talk, Zoom participants could be reminded again that they can access the link in Chat or on the SIM Calendar.

3.0. Operations Issues

3.1 Website Committee Report

Website development is nearing an end. The committee continues to work with the contractor to work through finalizing the design and layout and will meet at the end of the month.

3.2 Need for Additional SIM and a SDC Board Members

Greg Gollihur has volunteered to replace Sara as the Board Treasurer and will work with her to learn the tasks involved in this position. Board members expressed gratitude to Greg for stepping up to assume this important responsibility.

4.0 Community Outreach

4.1 YPS Update

Idris had informed Jon that there was nothing new to report to the Board. Karen did suggest that both Idris and Ian have assumed much responsibility for YPS and seemed excited that a

few other members have stepped up to take on some of the coordination tasks. The group did decide on one less meeting per month and fewer teachers to be invited.

4.2 Diversity/Inclusivity Committee

Amy reported that the committee will be meeting to discuss its future now that the website project (to which they contributed) is coming to an end.

4.3 eNews and Periodic Board Newsletter to the Community

Tony stated that the overall feedback on the Newsletter has been positive. Sara Denzler will be highlighted once the retreat is over, and he wants the sangha to learn about the work of various committees.

5.0. Retreat and Class Updates

5.1 Residential retreat 2022, update

Extensive discussion occurred concerning a variety of issues related to the SIM Annual Retreat. A full report is available in Meeting Materials on the Google Drive. The issues addressed concern 1) financial matters, 2) retreat preparation, 3) Neesha's decision not to participate in person, 4) logistical needs to support Greg, and 5) COVID considerations.

Regarding contingency plans for any COVID disruptions, the Board decided that blanket refunds would not be given in the event the retreat was cancelled (or became a self-retreat), but would leave the door open for participants to request at least a partial refund for special considerations. Refunding the deposit of scholarship awardees was favored by members.

Neesha's potential role online was discussed. It was decided that a hybrid format for the retreat would likely interfere with the deep silence and solitude of the retreat container and would present considerable technical challenges. However, the Board was open to the possibility of offering one-on-one interviews with Neesha with a simple Zoom format on a computer located in a private room some place on the grounds. Rich offered to help set that up with help from Jerry, the Retreat Manager.

5.2 Class Updates/Coordination

Dennis' Fall class will be online, except for the daylong. Josh, the registrar, has been working with Dennis regarding prerequisites for participation. The flyer for the Beginning Meditation course needs updated dates, which Rich will provide. The course is open for registration with Josh as the registrar. Both courses should be announced regularly on Thursday nights.

6.0. Volunteer Updates

6.1 Volunteer Update

Margaret has reported that she is running low on volunteers, having dropped from three volunteers for each of three crews to two for each crew. It will be a challenge for her to

have enough help for September 1 and a daylong retreats. One possibility is to have students set up the space themselves. An email Margaret sent to Jon will be forwarded to Rich and Dennis to consider her concerns.

7.0. SDC

7.1 SDC Report

No report was available.

7.2 SDC Rental Agreement

Jon reported that the Rental Agreement is an eight-page legal document. It is unclear how and by whom the document should be signed. He will discuss the issue with Sara and determine how to respond.

8.0. Next Board Meeting

September 12, 2022 @ 6pm - 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted
Karen Tercho, acting Secretary
Chris Bitonti, Recorder