



Sacramento Insight Meditation

FINAL

Sacramento Insight Meditation Board Meeting Minutes November 14, 2022

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

Attendance

President	Jon Siiteri	Member-At-Large	Amy Kovak
Vice President	Tony Pruitt	YPS Rep	Idris Ahmed
Treasurer	Sara Denzler	Faculty Rep	Rich Howard
Secretary	Alice Carney	SDC Rep	Absent
Recorder	Christine Bitonti	Member-At-Large	Karen Tercho
Member-At-Large	Greg Gollihur Absent	Guest	Margaret Buss

Beginnings

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

Minutes

SIM Board Minutes from November 14, 2022 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

1.0. Board-Faculty Communication

1. Faculty Report

Faculty report was presented by Rich Howard. Two written reports (one from Rich and Diane and another from Dennis) are in Meeting Materials. The main issue addressed in the Board meeting was a proposal to charge a nominal fee (\$10) for participation in the Introduction to Meditation class that has been held monthly on the fourth Thursday. A second proposal concerned holding the event less frequently—either every other month or quarterly. A motion to approve the fee was passed unanimously by the Board, leaving the issue of class frequency up to the Faculty. A third issue regarding reminders to those who have registered for the class will be investigated by Idris (whether reminders can be automated or must be sent by the registrar).

2. Legacy Project Update

Rich reported that Walt Opie and Vance Pryor have each committed to signing a legal agreement for the calendar years 2023 and 2024 to become SIM Legacy Project teachers. Board members reviewed and discussed the document that the prospective teachers will be asked to sign which outlines expectations and compensation among other issues. The Board unanimously approved the document pending a few minor edits. Greg Gollihur will be sent the document for review. Neesha Patel's participation in this project is on hold until she completes an extended retreat period.

3. Teacher Care Team - Name and new sangha member

Karen reported that this committee has been renamed "Teacher Liaison Crew" (abbreviated TLC). Via Dennis, a new crew member, Jennifer Powers, has agreed to join. Karen has been working on a master teaching schedule for next year that is steadily progressing. It includes a new visiting teacher, Rick Maddock, who is a neuroscientist and psychiatrist from UC Davis. Karen suggested the possibility that Board members could serve as liaisons for various teachers to ensure that their needs are met. It was noted that some liaison activities are already in place; it is not clear what additional assistance is needed in this area.

2.0. Fiscal

2.1 October Financial Reports

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

SIM's finances stand as follows:

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$115,667.50

Activity (Total Column):

Net Revenue through August: \$8,115.89 (-\$1,326.59)

Net Revenue through September: -\$8,823.22 (-\$16,939.11)

Net Revenue through October: -\$12,714.71 (-\$3,891.49)

2.2 Year-End Fundraising Letter

Fundraising letter is almost ready and will be forwarded to Sabitre to be sent out soon.

Sara will place the fundraising letter in Meeting Materials.

2.3 Response for Bank Campaign Request

Responses to a recent proposal by a sangha member to move SIM funds to a smaller bank as part of a larger community campaign have been largely unfavorable. Continued discussion of this matter occurred with some comments supportive of the matter—chiefly, that it would conform to the Buddhist value of non-harming. It was pointed out that individuals may choose to move their own assets if they wish. A proposal was passed to approve a reply from the Board of Directors to not change the bank account currently used by SIM as requested (see attached document).

3.0. Operations Issues

3.1 Website Committee Report

Alice reported that the project is moving along toward completion and launching, possibly by December 1, but at least by the end of the month. Board members expressed their appreciation to the committee for all their hard work on this project.

4.0. Community Outreach

4.1 December 1st SIM Celebration Planning

Tony, Robin Primavera, and Amy have met and talked with faculty members about this event. Planning for it has steadily advanced. There will be cake and tea after the program. John Travis will appear in person. Several others will participate remotely. A special invitation to sangha members will be sent out shortly.

4.2 YPS Update

Idris reported that Matthew Bensilver was the last teacher at a YPS event. Planning for next year is in progress.

5.0. Retreat and Class Updates

5.1 Residential retreat 2023

Sara reported that the 2023 residential retreat is scheduled for November 12 to the 19th at the Mercy Center in Auburn. Greg Scharf has agreed to serve as teacher with others potentially participating as well. A deposit for the Mercy Center may be needed in January.

5.2 Class Updates

Amy reported that the Beginning Meditation course will be held in January and February; registration will open soon. Registration is already open for Diane's Eightfold Path course which begins March 23. The class is full with a few spaces left on the waiting list. Alice will ask Dennis if he is working on any plans to teach a course in the Spring of 2023.

6.0. Volunteer Updates

6.1 Volunteer Update

Margaret reported that she has decided to continue as Volunteer Coordinator for a few more months while scheduling and other issues are resolved. She does not want another sangha member to inherit these concerns. She now has four teams of two people rather than the four teams of three people she once had. She also wants adequate time to prepare for the transition. She suggested that the new coordinator be someone who has been a volunteer themselves.

Margaret noted that she wants to see as many people as possible come in person to SIM activities. As an incentive, she would like to turn on the tea water early (around 6:30PM) on Thursday evenings and invite sangha members to come for tea prior to the sitting.

Margaret brought up several safety concerns regarding homeless people in and around the dharma center which the Board discussed at length. Others expressed similar concerns.

Jon suggested that the Community Safety Officer who previously met with Jon and Alice be invited to assess the situation at SDC and offer suggestions for keeping members safe. The other two sanghas and the SDC Board would be invited to participate in any such discussions. For the present, a decision was made to lock the front access doors at 7:10PM then briefly unlock them until 8:00 PM on Thursdays and to inform the sangha through email that members would need to be prompt in their arrival on those evenings.

6.2 SDC Representative and Thank You's

At the December 1 Anniversary Celebration, a special "Thank You" and gift will be offered to several exceptional volunteers at SIM. Cathy Vigran will be asked to make this offering as she has known and worked with them for years.

7.0. SDC

7.1 SDC Report

No update on SDC. Greg Gollihur has agreed to serve as the representative from SIM to the SDC Board. He would like a six-month trial to see if the duties of this position will work with his schedule.

8.0. Next Board Meeting

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

**Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Carney, Secretary
Karen Tercho, Recorder**