



Sacramento Insight Meditation

FINAL

Sacramento Insight Meditation

Board Meeting Minutes, August 14, 2023

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 PM on Monday, August 14, 2023 via teleconferencing.

Attendance

President	Jon Siiteri	Member-At-Large	Amy Kovak
Vice President		YPS Rep	Idris Ahmed
Treasurer	Greg Gollihur	Faculty Rep	Dennis Warren
Secretary	Alice Carney	SDC Rep	Absent
Recorder	Christine Bitonti	Member-At-Large	Karen Tercho
Member-At-Large	Katie Stonebraker		

Beginnings

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

Meeting Minutes

The Board Minutes for July 10, 2023 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

1.0. Fiscal

1. Financial Reports

Financial Summary as of July 31, 2023

Monthly Report:

Prior to this meeting, the Treasurer briefly reviewed SIM's Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity Reports for January- July 31, 2023. Those reports are provided in the Meeting Materials.

SIM's finances stand as follows:

Statement of Financial Position

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$102,039.60 (previous total \$113,784.97)

Statement of Activity

Net Revenue through July 31, 2023: -\$14,366 (previous total) -\$2,701.09

Notes:

Declines in net revenue and total Financial Position continued through July 31, 2023 and are reflective of increased expenditures for presenters, particularly in Legacy Project costs, as well as professional services including on-going website costs and other professional services.

2. SDC Lease

SIM Treasurer, Greg Gollihur, reported on the recent SDC monthly rent increase for SIM to \$175 and the decision to renegotiate the lease a year from now. Dennis Warren pointed out that a rent increase was anticipated years ago.

Greg responded to a question regarding dana contributions to SIM (which decreased during the pandemic). He noted the difficulty of discerning patterns in giving when monthly amounts fluctuate, but does believe that contribution amounts may have stabilized. Dennis noted that many recent attendees at SIM are new to meditation and the dana tradition and that they may not fully understand the importance of dana to sustaining the programs and facilities.

Dennis suggested that an effective handout explaining dana be created and that it may be helpful to have an evening when the efforts necessary to support SIM would be described and illustrated to the sangha, including financial needs.

Amy noted that it would be important to emphasize that dana is an act of generosity and “paying it forward” so that others may benefit, rather than simply “paying for services rendered.”

Greg reiterated the need for an entire fundraising plan.

Katie recommended that at each Thursday session the announcer include a brief note about the specifics of what SIM does and how the donated funds are used (e.g., for teacher travel expenses, air conditioning, etc.).

2.0. Board-Faculty Communication

2.1 Faculty Report

Representing the Faculty, Dennis Warren noted that an extensive report has been filed and can be found in Meeting Materials on Google Docs.

Highlights of the report:

- Diane Wilde’s plan for a six-month sabbatical. Dennis and Rich Howard have pledged their support to her and will fill in as needed during this period.
- Faculty supports an increase in the fee for the six-week Beginning Meditation course to \$50. Jon proposed this action to the Board, which approved it unanimously
- Rich is planning a Beginning Meditation course to focus on college students, drawing them from the many higher education institutions in the area. He hopes to involve the Legacy teachers in this program. Dennis is also planning his third three-week pilgrimage to India and Nepal for the end of 2025 with registration occurring by December, 2024.
- The community meeting regarding the Legacy Project—its intent and fundraising needs—has been rescheduled to November 2. Dennis recommends that Legacy teachers not be involved in this meeting since much of the focus will be fundraising issues.
- Dennis suggested that it may be time to talk about wills and trusts with sangha members. He noted that there are several good models available that are “low-key” and effective.
- Important meetings this Fall: September 16 half-day retreat for Board and Faculty; October 12 half-day retreat for Legacy teachers and Faculty; November 2 (regular SIM Thursday night session) a focus on retreat practice (in preparation for the upcoming SIM Annual Retreat);

2.2 Teacher Liaison Crew

Karen Tercho reported

- all programs have been scheduled through the end of the year.
- There will be no November day-long retreat due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- The TLC is working on the schedule for 2024 and have asked Legacy teachers to submit dates for their activities.

—For the upcoming hybrid day-long retreat with Rick Maddock, Karen will create a schedule for teacher interviews (complicated by the hybrid format for the day).

3.0. Operations Issues

3.1 Website Committee Update

Amy reported

—that she has had conversations with Sabitre regarding her request for more guidance from the Committee and offered to be the point person for Sabitre who would pass along her comments and questions to the other committee members or to the Board.

—Amy will contact Sabitre to see if a meeting with the Committee is necessary at this time.

—Sabitre would like access to the old web site after the migration to the new site. She has found free technical support for this through Blue Host,(avoiding the \$900 fee proposed by Three29).

-Sabitre requests two new plug-ins to improve the user experience: 1, for recurring events in the calendar and 2, for funds and donations. The combined annual subscription fees is around \$350. Jon proposed that the Board authorize the two plug-ins. The proposal was approved with five “yes” votes and one abstention.

—Greg is to talk to Sara Denzler about the \$55 a month fee to Quicken on tax records and verify if this is necessary.

—Amy recommended an E-news announcement regarding the web site challenges and opportunities. Board members expressed their approval of the idea.

3.2 Action Item List Update

Jon noted two items:

1) half-day Board and Faculty retreat has been scheduled for September 16 will be held in the meditation hall

2) Greg continues to work on the long-term financial needs of the Legacy Project.

4.0. Community Outreach

4.1 YPS Update

Idris reported that things are going well with YPS.

- There has been an increase in attendance. Two teachers (Vance Pryor on September 27 and Walt Opie on October 25) are scheduled for upcoming visits.
- Idris noted that YPS may need a more reliable AV system when teachers are in person at a hybrid event for use in the SDC Library. Karen, who coordinates A/V-related matters for SIM, put Idris and Bob Jenne in touch, so that Bob can help troubleshoot the current set-up (smaller TV with SDC laptop).

4.2 Social media update

Katie reported on the creation of the SIM Instagram account. It is drawing from the BIPOC and Queer communities, among others, and has 160 followers.

4.3 Preparation for 11/2/23 Community Presentation: letter(s), announcements, and timeline

Tabled until after the September half-day retreat.

5.0. Retreat and Class Updates

5.1 Jon reported that key staff have been identified for the retreat: Retreat Manager, Mary Howard and Retreat Registrar, Vicki Ruben. Retreat Committee: Jon, Robin Primavera, and Tony Pruitt.

6.0. Volunteer Updates

6.1 Volunteer Update

A written report from Margaret Buss can be found in Meeting Materials.

— Various sangha members have made suggestions to her and others regarding the schedule and time changes recently made for the Thursday night meditation session.

— The Board agreed that Jon should send out a short survey (one or two questions) to sangha members to determine their preferences for Thursday sit times.

7.0. SDC

7.1 Update from Greg

Greg reported at length on SDC Board conversations regarding the “Big Day of Giving” sponsored by the Sacramento Community Foundation. The SDC Board believes that the three sanghas cannot participate as a group because two of them are religious entities (according to their tax form filings). SIM, on the other hand, is not. After some investigation, Greg has determined that it may be possible for the three to participate as a group under the SDC umbrella as many other groups do. Even if this is not possible, SDC can participate as a nonprofit entity. Board members expressed support for either scenario. Greg will continue his investigation into the possibilities.

8.0. Next Board Meeting

September 11, 2023 6:00-8:30 PM

via Zoom

Respectfully submitted

Alice Carney, Secretary

Christine Bitonti, Recorder